WEDNESDAY 17 APRIL 1996 40p (IR 45p)



A city united in hope and fear

Newcastle's high anxiety

Why a ponytail can get you fired

The British designer who took New York



Legal action will overturn EU beef ban

Ministers confident of success

SARAH HELM **COLIN BROWN** and PAUL FIELD

British ministers were confident last night of witning a European Court challenge to lift the worldwide ban on the export of British beef, as senior European Commission officials admitted there was no legal basis for its

Anthoritative sources within the commission have told the Independent that there was no sound legal ground for the world-wide ban and it would most likely be reversed in court. The legal questions were dealt with hastily when the BSE crisis first broke and member states sought to respond to do-

In taking the European Commission to the European Court of Justice, British lawyers plan to quote assurances that British beef is safe by Jacques Santer, the commission president, and Franz Fischler, the commissioner for agriculture, who adbe happy to eat British beef because there was no medical

reason not to. In a statement to the Commons vesierday, Douglas Hogg. the Agriculture Minister, said the ban was "unjust and unjustified". He admitted that substantive legal action could take months, but Britain will be seeking an interim order by the European Court for the immediate lifting of the ban, pending

a further court hearing. Mr Hogg also announced a package of measures to boost market confidence including a £550m scheme, beginning on 29 April, to buy and destroy cattle aged over 30 months. Farmers are to receive up to £500 for what they do with exports of each dairy cow at the end of its beef to third countries," a senior productive life, known as cull cows. Beef farmers whose heifers and steers come to market after 30 months, which are worth considerably more, are to be compensated under an £80m top-up scheme.

Slaughterhouses are to recieve an immediate £30m designed to keep them afloat. A further £80m is to be used to remove the blockage of unsaleable beef, currently valued at £132m. The Intervention Board will purchase the stocks at 65 per cent of the market price prior to the BSE crisis before taking responsibility for their disposal.

Mr Hogg said latest reports showed beef consumption was now around 85 per cent of precrisis levels and the auction market had recovered to 60 per

Ministers have been holding talks with food chains about resuming British beef sales. The Government ruled out a mass producers said it may not be enough to restore public confi-

Sources within the European Commission told the Independent last night that the ban on exporting British beef to third countries was imposed without any clear legal base and would probably be reversed in court. Furthermore, the commission imposed the global section of the ban without citing any relevant treaty article to justify it, and despite strong indications from its own legal experts that the global ban could be un-

"We knew there was no legal basis for telling member states

The admissions will fuel anger in Britain and raise new questions about the way the European Union responded to the BSE crisis. The commission is confident it has clear powers to impose the ban on British beef within the EU, but not to extend it to third countries. However, Franz Fischler, the agriculture commissioner, is certain to continue to insist in public that the commission had the power to enforce a global ban too. Mr Fischler argues that the comprehensive nature of the ban was essential to restore confidence to the markets.

Using diplomatic and legal action, Downing Street said Mr Major also had written to European leaders, including Helmut Kohl of Germany and President Chirac of France, to call for the ban to be lifted, and this week will lobby them for action at an international conference in Moscow.

א שממדיו the all-clear given by Mr Santer and Mr Fishcler made the ban "inappropriate". The next meeting of agriculture ministers is not due until 29 April. British ministers may seek an emergency meeting of the agriculture council to lift the ban.

The package of help for farmers was welcomed on all sides of the Commons. Mr Hogg said that the Gov-

ernment would not accept the demands of some EU ministers for Britain to carry out a massive culling programme. The numbers selectively culled would be in low tens of thousands, he said.

he said.

A personal decision: A smiling Duchess of York pictured during her skiing holiday in Photograph: Amold Slater

Duchess to relinquish HRH title under terms of divorce Yorks bring marriage to an end

The Duke and Duchess of York are to divorce after more than two years' separation it was announced last night by lawyers for both sides. Legal proceedings are already under way and the marriage is expected to be

dissolved by the end of May. The first hearing will be held today in the family division of the High Court in London and the divorce will be finalised before the end of May.

The Queen, who has been informed of the couple's decision, was said to be "saddened". But royal-watchers said she was relieved by the announcement which comes just before her 70th birthday on Sunday.

The solicitors for the Prince and the Duchess declined to discuss the terms of the divorce, though they said the Duchess would relinquish the title " Her Royal Highness" and will look after their children. Buckingham Palace stressed that the Duke and Duchess, married in 1986 and separated in 1992, remain "close friends" and were under no pressure from the Royal Family to divorce. A Palace scokesman denied

the Queen had written to the Duke and Duchess in the same anner as she wrote to the Prince and Princess of Wales, calling for an end to the mar-

Financial arrangements between the Duke and Duchess were "entirely a personal matter" and were not being dis-

cussed with the media. Solicitors for the Prince and the Duchess also declined to discuss the terms of the divorce. They issued a joint statement saying: "The Duke and Duchess of York today announced ... that they have agreed, after more than two years' separation, that their marriage should formally be ended. Accordingly the necessary legal proceedings are under way and it is anticipated

Her fourth

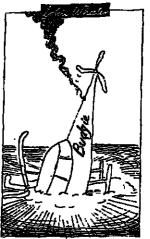
birthday may

that the Decree Absolute will be made at the end of May.

The decision by the Duke and Duchess is a personal one, and theirs alone. Her Royal Highness The Duchess of York has chosen not to use the style 'Her Royal Highness' and will continue to be the Duchess of York ... The children will continue to live with the Duchess...

The royal divorce is listed for bearing today in the Principal Registry of the High Court Family Division at Somerset House, London.

The case, listed as "HRH The Duke of York v HRH The Duchess of York", is the last in a list of 29 "quickie" special pro-



of under the fast track system before Senior District Judge Gerald Angel. Barring any objections, decrees nisi will be granted in all 29 petitions "en bloc" after the names of each couple have been read out. It is understood that the

Duchess will continue to live at her rented home, Kingsbourne, at Wentworth. The 36-year-old Duchess is in

the middle of a skiing holiday in Switzerland with her children. A spokeswoman for her said: "There is no further comment." Fame and bad taste, page 3

Girl, 2, beheaded by Israeli missile



targets in Lebanon yesterday Photograph: Nati Hanik / AP

ROBERT FISK

In its attack on what it claims to be Lebanese Hizbollah targets, Israel yesterday bombed a Palestinian refugee camp at Ein el Helweh and killed two more civilians – a woman who died in an air raid near Baalbek and a two year old girl decapitated by an Israeli missile fired from a helicopter over Beirut.

Their deaths bring to 25 the number of civilians cut down in the Israeli offensive, of whom at least 14 are women and children, the youngest a month old. In southern Lebanon the Hizbollah fired another 20 Katyusha rockets back at Israel,

rael did not give precise figures. The sixth day of Israel's operation, which it says is intended to force the Lebanese

wounding several civilians. Is-

Hizbollah, opened before dawn when two helicopters flew over the Ein el Helweh camp and fired two missiles at the house of Mounir Maqda, a Palestinian official who broke with the PLO leader because he disagreed with the Oslo accord between the PLO and Israel.

Mr Maqda was not hurt, but his three-year-old son Mazen was reported to be badly injured and a married couple were gravely wounded when one of the missiles hit their neighbouring house.

Osama and Samia Osman were taken to the Hammoud Hospital in Sidon where they were yesterday in critical condition with shrapnel wounds to the head and upper body. Dr Hizbollah office. They used the Ghassan Hammoud, the direction of the helitor and owner of the hospital, copter missile attack on Beirut's gave the Independent a set of southern suburbs which killed

overnment to disarm the hospital records which show the two year old girl in midthat in the past six days, his doc-tors have tended 88 wounded afternoon. Yesterday morning, Israel's civilians. The figure suggests proxy militia radio station in

that the official tally of 166 southern Lebanon began wounded in all Lebanon may be threatening civilians in Tyre, a serious underestimate. One of warning them to leave their Mr Maqda's bodyguards was homes if 'terrorists' lived near also reported to have been them and created a miniature version of the mass panic that wounded in the missile attack gripped Tyre at the weekend. By nightfall Sidon's streets were althe only militia man reported to have been injured during the day. A married couple were most empty. A US proposal aimed at endalso wounded by shell fire in the

village of Tibnin. But still not a ing the fighting seemed to be over almost before it began single Hizbollah guerrilla appears to have been killed. when Lebanese Prime Minister Two other civilians were Rafik al-Hariri said it was difwounded when an unnamed ficult for Beirut to accept some woman died in the Israeli air of its terms. US Ambassador raid at Baalbek which the Is-Richard Jones had called for the revival of a 1993 understanding raelis said was aimed at a barring attacks against civilian targets on both sides of the Lebanese-Israeli border as a

little preparation to eat, it's latest newly-bred crops is viable, in which astronauts will live in a sealed pod in NASA's Johnson Space Centre in their own space farm. "We could be ready

in the near future to have peo-

ple permanently living in

basis of noodles, pizza bases, cookies - it's the basis of the space," said Professor Bugbee. Those unable to get that far An area of Apogee wheat can still get a taste of Apogee. about 30-yards-square would The University is making free meet one person's needs insamples available to laboratodefinitely, given the right light ries and schools worldwide. conditions, said Professor Bug-Those interested can apply via post to the USU Crop Physiolbee, and harvesting and processing could be automated. An ogy Laboratory, Utah State experiment is due to start with-University, Logan, Utah, or by in the next two years to see email to bugbee@cc.usu.edu.

well be her last, but she isn't ill She's poor in countries like the Gambia, one in lour children die before their fifth birtholay. The diseases they suffer from differ But the cause is almost always the same ACTIONAID is working in some of the poorest areas of the world to end this cycle of despair Helping local communities to provide clean water, education, health, nutrition, food production and a means to generate their Sponsor a child like Nyana and you'll be helping her. her family and her whole community A photograph and regular reports keep you in lough. You will receive messages from the child and can write if you wish, By becoming a sponsor you'll make all the difference to the lite of a child fike Nyana. Please sponsor a child today. i Places and se further details about sporsoring a child, or call: 8460 61073. lan market in trockand in Where there's greaters i need ⊡ Aseb [22 The property stables 4.10 May account 4.10 May REPOST Ones in lasticitis

IN BRIEF

Ceasefire plot The IRA were stockpiling bombs and making lists of potential targets throughout the ceasefire.

Madonna with child Pop star Madonna is pregnant with her first baby and is "deliri-Page 10 ously happy.".

Today's weather Mainly bright with scattered showers. Section Two, page 29



Flying pizza that reaches for the stars per acre is treble that of the best cient, and much less expensive. "Rice and potatoes take very

Science Correspondent

might travel a long way from home, but at least they'll still be able to get the essentials of earthly eating - pizza, cookies and fresh bread. The key: a 15year project at Utah State University which has succeeded in developing a fast-growing dwarf wheat that NASA, the US space agency, will grow in future space missions.

Called Apogee, the specially-bred wheat has been devel- self-contained ecosystems. oped specifically to thrive in where astronauts' food is prospace. Its yield of 600 bushels duced onboard. It is more effi-

of grain emerge after three gy to grow food during the America's future astronauts weeks, a week before earthbound rivals. It also produces fewer branches than rivals, so using less energy on growing and more on producing grain. And it is only 18 inches high when mature - an advantage in the cramped environment of a

spacecraft. Long space missions to Mars and other planets - and perhaps one day to the stars - will call for spacecraft which function as

of natural strains, and its heads to use the plentiful solar enerjourney, rather than hauling it all the way from Earth. Apogee wheat will be grown on the International Space Station, due to be built by 2002, and

Bruce Bugbee, professor of plant physiology at Utah State University, is already working on other crops. Tomatoes, rice and soybeans are high up the international list of ingredients in space travellers' onboard farms. And making a pizza would not require a space cow. "You can make vegetarian cheese," Professor Bugbee points out.

> ARTS 6,7 CHESS 27 CROSSWORD 30 FINANCE 17 LISTINGS 28,29 LIVING 4,5 MONEY 13-16 RADIO 31

true," the professor said yes-

terday. "But the bad news is they

only make one product. Where-

as without too much extra pro-

cessing, wheat gives you the

food we eat."

BUSINESS 19-23 COMMENT 16.17 CROSSWORD 38 GAZETTE 18 LEADING ARTICLES 16 LETTERS 16 NEWS ANALYSIS 15 OBITUARIES 18 SHARES 22 SPORT 26-36 UNIT TRUSTS 23

section

THEATRE 8.9 TRAVEL 10-12 TV 32 WEATHER 29

IN BRIEF

Ex-husband held in murder probe

Detectives investigating the

riverbank murder of divorcee

Karen Skipper as she walked

her two dogs are questioning her ex-husband. Philip Skipper,

38, was arrested early yesterday

and taken to Fairwater police

The partially-clothed body of

Mrs Skipper, 34, was found in

the River Elyon 10 March. Her

hands had been tied behind her back with a dog-lead. Tests

showed she had been dragged through brambles and into the

water where she was held under until she drowned. Lion blaze drama

Wardens armed with high velocity rifles protected firefighters when a car caught fire in the lion enclosure at Lord Bath's Longleat Safari Park in Wiltshire. Visitors Craig Gor-

don and Michelle Sanders, of Southampton, were pulled from

their vehicle as the wardens kept

12 lions at bay. Keepers received special training after a similar

situation involving another ter-

rified family in the big cats'

Legal ban on leaks

The Department of Trade and

Industry won a High Court

injunction to block further pub-

lication in The Economist of

details from a leaked report

which recommended that

National Power's £2.8bn bid for

Southern Electric and Power-

gen's £1.95bn bid for Midland

Electric be allowed. Judge

enclosure last year.

station in Cardiff.

hook

Feeling humgrumshious? Perhaps you've just been told you're looking obsocky. Or worse, that you're a pesterous

Those who hail from the West Indies will have already person wearing ill-matching Oxford University Press.

JASON BENNETTO

Crime Correspondent

The IRA was stockpiling bombs

and making lists of potential tar-

gets on the British mainland throughout the last ceasefire, it

for a terror campaign, which took place while President Bill

Clinton was on a peace mission

to the United Kingdom and

Dublin, were revealed at the in-

quest on Edward O'Brien, the

terrorist who blew himself up on

It is believed the information

about O'Brien's terrorist activ-

ities was found in documents re-

covered from his flat in south

O'Brien, 21, died on 18 Feb-

ruary when the 5lb Semtex

bomb he was carrying went off

At vesterday's inquest at

Westminster Coroner's Court,

in which a verdict of accidental

deaths was recorded, Detective

Superintendent William Emer-

ton of Scotland Yard's Anti Ter-

rorist Branch said O'Brien was

working for the IRA on the

British mainland as early as Au-

Police raided O'Brien's flat

immediately after the blast and

found 33lb of Semtex, 20 timers,

four detonators, an incendiary

device and ammunition for a

9mm handgun which he was car-

accidentally at the Aldwych.

a bus in central London.

east London.

Details of the preparations don.

was disclosed yesterday.

ifi

วล

he

clothes, denounced as an irritating tramp.

Those who don't, but like to have a plaster for every sore (an answer for everything) might like to consult the first ever dictionary of West Indian words and phrases - the latest dictioidentified a rough and crude nary to be published by the

IRA bomber

'had hit-list'

rying when he died. They are also recovered documents out-

lining potential future targets.

complete find of bomb-making

equipment which could have

sustained a significant bombing

attack on the citizens of Lon-

and indulging in criminal ac-

tivity. I can prove that in Octo-

ber and November 1995 he

was collecting targeting infor-

mation and assembling his

bomb-making equipment in his

flat, clearly intent on carrying

out the intentions of the Provi-

certain that O'Brien was also re-

sponsible for a planting a Semtex bomb on 15 February in a

telephone box in central Lon-

don, which was later deactivat-

ed by the police. An identical

sports bag and similar bomb

making equipment was found at

O'Brien's flat. The inquest

heard details of the blast that

Pathologist Dr Iain West said

ripped apart the No 171 bus.

O'Brien, from Gorey, County

Wexford, was killed "virtually in-

stantaneously" by massive in-

juries caused by the explosion

- his legs were blown off, he was

peppered with shrapnel, and the

force of the detonation ripped

his lungs to tatters. Forensic and

Mayhew pressure on IRA

The police are also almost

sional IRA."

"I can prove that from August 1994 O'Brien was in London operating on behalf of the IRA

Mr Emerton said: "It was a

The Dictionary of Caribbean English Usage claims to be the first attempt in 400 years to translate some of the more flamboyant West Indian expressions. Among the 20,000 words explained are puss boots (soft-soled shoes), nimbles

(fleas) and the Caribbean

equivalent of shanks's pony - to

pathological evidence suggest-ed that the bomb was being car-

ried in a bag at knee height as

O'Brien stood at the bottom of

the stairs of the double-decker

Allen Feraday, a forensic sci-

entist, said he could not say ex-

actly why the bomb went off

early, but said the most likely

reasons included poor training, bad construction, and electrical

acts of bravery and lucky es-capes. Pc Miles Manning, who

was off-duty when the bomb

went off, helped the two pas-

sengers and driver injured in the blast. He recalled: "I saw the bus

and it looked like there was a

huge bite mark where the door

should have been. Lying in this

bite mark was a white male who

was still alive and murmuring.

"Then I looked up and saw the

deceased. It was obvious he was

dead. His legs had been blown

who was on the bus and escaped

with a few cuts and a perforat-

ed eardrum, told the inquest:

"There was a piercing sound go-

ing through my mind. Every-

thing became still and suddenly

I was surrounded by complete

darkness with sparks of light. "I

was losing consciousness, but I

forced myself to stand up and

get out of the bus.'

Paris Valentine, a solicitor,

The inquest was also told of

or mechanical faults.

People may be described as foodist (greedy), rang-a-tang cally described as a sport girl. (belligerent) or spree boy (someone who wants to have fun). They might be sprankious (lively and good looking), sometimish (moody and unreliable) or trickified (cunning and en and kiddie kingdom" (in a

A prostitute is euphemisti-

while a gay man is variously described as an auntic man, antiman or pantyman - expressions that are likely to leave neither of them in "goat heav-

take taxi 11 (from the legs 11 crafty), kicksy (lively) or simply bingo call).

crafty), kicksy (lively) or simply state of bliss). The dictionary, priced at £50, has been complete the complete taxing the complete taxing the crafty of the complete taxing the crafty of the craft o Allsop. 73, who recently retired as reader in English Language and linguistics at the Universi-

ty of the West Indies. A spokesman for the Oxford University Press said: "This is an inventory of the linguistic of standard English."

English-speaking Caribbean

Speaking from his Barbados home, Mr Allsop said: "The book is an attempt to collect 400 vears of ecology, history and culture of the Caribbean. It is not meant to replace any dictionary

Paint protest

vative Party chairman.

diary magistrate at Bow Street told the three students and a were designed to prevent the Cabinet minister from breaking the law by inciting racial hatred. He said the demonstration.

mounted by the Movement for Justice after the State Opening of Parliament last November in protest at the Government's Asylum and Immigration Bill, had clearly been planned and had left both Dr Mawhinney and his wife distressed. A barrage of plastic bags

ment and walked across nearby College Green on their way to an interview at a temporary BBC television studio. Their actions were captured

Amanda Egbe, 20, of Stoke Newington and Anthony Gard. 54, a teacher from Brockley, all in London, were convicted of one charge of common assault against Dr Mawhinney, a similar offence against his wife Betty, and a general allegation of using threatening behaviour. A fourth student, Nicholas de

Dr Mawhinney had to run a

magistrates' court in London, college lecturer that "no rational person" could accept their argument that their actions

on television film, which was

terday of common assault and threatening behaviour by throwing paint and flour over Brian Mawhinney, the Conser-

Mawhinney and his wife as they left the Houses of Parlia-

and flour was hurled at Dr

shown to the court.

Allowing the defendants bail until 14 May when he will pass sentence, Mr Evans warned them that they each faced the

gauntlet of placard-waving demonstrators, chanting "racist, racist" as he arrived and left the heavily policed court building.

spent on improving it as a pub-

fares would drop later.

day to seeking leave for a judi-cial review of the franchising

process over the refusal by the

He took the unusual step of

issuing a statement to demand

a full apology for the slip up over

lic service".

group guilty

risk of being jailed. Karen Doyle, 19, of Camden; Naveed Malik, 18, of Clapton;

Marco, 29, of Clapton, east

London, was cleared of all three charges. The former philosophy and history student, was president of the students' union at Kingsway College, Camden, north London, until he was expelled earlier this year.

A group of anti-racist demon-strators were found guilty yes-Nicholas Evans, the stipen-

Longmore said that information already in the public domain could be repeated but no new information was to be disclosed.

Double tragedy

A mother lost her baby to suspected meningitis hours after her son died from hit-and-run injuries. Angela Bretherton. 26, was at her four-year-old son Jamie's bedside in Liverpool's Alder Hey Children's Hospital when eight-week-old Anthony was taken ill. Paramedics rushed to the family home in Toxteth but attempts to revive him failed. Jamie was hit by a BMW on a pedestrian crossing and died from his injuries. Mrs

children, is under sedation. Such sweet sorrow

Bretherton, who has two other

Receivers have been called in at Meltis plc, best known as the makers of New Berry Fruits. Accountancy firm KPMG warned they could not be optimistic about saving the company. which employs 310 staff at a factory in Bedford making New Berry Fruits, crystallised fruit and Turkish delight. Stephen James, one of the two receivers, said: "Meltis is clearly a famous and evocative name - I gave my mother boxes of New Berry Fruits on special occasions."

Royal pay rises

Unions representing 600 members of the Queen's staff are to press for basic pay increases of 2.9 per cent. A handful of senior staff will also receive performance-related rises which would take their total increase to almost seven per cent. But most workers, including gardeners, porters, clerical staff and chambermaids, would receive considerably less, according to union officials. Talks will be held later this month before a deal abstain, let alone go into the of pounds" were being spent on backdated to 1 April. selling-off the railways "when the vast majority of people

Plane nightmare

A panicking passenger forced a pilot to land his plane in a field would like to see that money and then jumped out - straight Mr Major said previous into the spinning propeller Labour governments had closed blades. The 43-year-old man is more than 600 stations while the critical after emergency surgery Tories had opened more than at the North Hampshire Hos-Under Labour, fares had field near Hannington. His arm risen by more than 20 per cent was almost torn from its sockwhile the Government had et and he suffered serious spine, pegged fare rises to inflation and head and neck injuries after leaping from the three-seater Opposition to the sell-off single engine Cheetah. among the public is underlined

Radio cliffhanger

by an ICM poll for today's Guardian, which suggests 43 per Fans of The Archers radio soar cent think services will be "less were left on the edge of their safe" when the railways are seats after a technical fault infully privatised, 47 per cent think they will be "worse" and terrupted transmission of a crucial episode. Listeners will have to wait until Sunday to hear the 79 per cent think they will be more expensive". Meanwhile, the Save Our outcome. The episode centred on a family argument over Railways campaign went to the High Court in London yesterfuneral arrangements for the character Guy Pemberton.

THE INDEPENDENT ABROAD Belgium BFr80 staly 14,500 ... Pts300 Madeira ... Esc325 OperusCE1.20 Matte43 cents Deremark Dkr18 Norway Nar20 rish Rep 45p Portugal Esc325 France Fr14 Spain P16300 Germany ... DN4.5 Sweden Ski20 Greece Dr450 Switzerland . Str4.00 LINEATHOURS ... LEGO USA \$3.00

OVERSEAS SUBSCRIPTIONS is mail, 13 wants: Europe £110.76; Zone 1 (A60) die East, America, Africa and India) £184.08; Zor 2 (For East and Australiasia) £208.70. To order, please iend cheque payable to Johnsons International Mo dia Services Ltd is 43 Milliophous London E14 9TR one 01.71-538 B288. Credit cords welcome



DONALD MACINTYRE Sir Patrick Mayhew, Northern Ireland Secretary, yesterday used publication of a bill for the it clear Sinn Fein's participation

tions to press for an early restoration of the IRA ceasefire in the all-party talks depends on to ensure all-party talks go "unequivocal" restoration of ahead on June 10. the truce. Sir Patrick yesterday dismissed suggestions that he through the bill, which will prohad accepted that a de facto vide for elections on 30 May, in ceasefire already existed and the hope of ensuring Royal Asmade it clear that the Governsent by Monday week. The secment was expecting a declaraond reading in the Commons

Whats the

connection between Monvoe and Wigglesworth?

tion that it had been restored. will be tomorrow. Sir Patrick Pressed on whether parties yesterday emphasised that the would would be satisfied if the ceasefire was announced only on the eve on all-party talks, Sir elections, which provide for a 110-member forum from which

negotiators will be chosen by Patrick said: "It would be inparty leaders, was a "gateway to creasingly hard to persuade negotiations that can lead to- participants that it was unwards a long-term political set- equivocal and genuine, the tlement in Northern Ireland". nearer to the off it was de-The Government has made livered." His remarks were re-

> an interruption." People in the province had

inforced by the Deputy Prime Minister, Michael Heseltine. who said on a visit to Northern Ireland that the ceasefire should be reinstated as soon as possible. "It is a tragedy it was interrupted; I hope it was only

"suffered appallingly" and had felt a deep sense of relief when the ceasefire was called. Everyone hoped the violence was be-

One-seat majority on the line

JOHN RENTOUL Political Correspondent

The Government's one-seat Commons majority will be put to the test tonight, in a vote on a Labour motion calling for the withdrawal of plans to privatise

Railtrack. As Clifford Forsythe, the Ul-ster Unionists' transport spokesman, signalled that his party's nine MPs were hostile to privatisation, the Northern Ireland Office moved to reassure them that there was "no truth" in reports that railways in the

province would be sold. With all the other minor parties also opposed to the controversial privatisation, tonight's vote could turn on the loyalty of just one Conservative MP.

Mr Forsythe, MP for South Antrim, warned that the railways must remain an integrated public service. He said: "Rather than having a disjointed system, the roads and railways in the whole of the UK all should fall into one plan. Essential rail links should be retained as a public service rather than simply on whether they are

The people of Northern Ire- ities Although Stagecoach, the both the railways and the two

land had an interest in Railtrack. because of the importance of the West Coast line from London to ferry points on the Irish Sea.

But the Northern Ireland Office statement faxed yesterday to Unionist MPs appeared to satisfy their concerns about the future of Northern Ireland

The statement repeated the Government's commitment to "a programme of maximising private sector expertise through market testing and contracting out, but said there was "no current timetable for

single track, which is why little

attention has been paid to its

fate, until today's rail debate,

In a series of Parliamentary an

swers earlier this year, Junior Northern Ireland minister Mal-

colm Moss admitted that the

Government was looking at

privatising the non-core activ-

Northern Ireland". Fresh legislation would be required for privatisation in the province. With the voting intentions of the Ulster Unionists still unclear

last night, potential Tory rebels denied that they would break ranks. A Tory party spokesman said he was confident of a gov-

Sir Keith Speed, the MP for Ashford, said he was in close touch with the half-dozen Tories who lobbied Sir George Young, Secretary of State for Transport, just before Christmas. He said yesterday: "I would be very

Tony Blair, the Labour leader, upped the stakes in the Commons yesterday, when he raised the sale issue at Prime Minister's Question Time. He asked if one reason for

ernment majority of about 20. Staffordshire South East by-

election was not that "people don't want to see their railway system broken into a 100 different companies, sold on the cheap, laced with sweeteners privatising public transport in surprised if any of them would

Ulster rail part of integrated system Northern Ireland Railways only has 206 route miles, much of it had two meetings with minisacquisitive bus company, has

ters over plans to take over the service, the Government denied there were any firm plans for a takeover.

Northern Ireland benefits from an integrated transport policy that would not be allowed by Tory dogma in Great Britain. À single company, Northern Ire-land Transport Holdings, owns

main bus companies, Ulsterbus and Citybus and therefore runs

Opposition lobby on Wednes-

the Tory defeat in last week's

privatisation is seen as a longterm option. The sale would be fiercely opposed by Ulster Unionists through fear that the lines would eventually be taken over by Irish Railways.

because he earned £34,000 as an

MP. Under the headline "Aye

lad, I'm right middle class, me",

the services in co-operation with each other. The lines receive a subsidy of £7.3m, but this amount is declining each year, which is why

franchising director, Roger Salmon, to allow British Rail to bid for the London, Tilbury and Southend franchise.

Prescott, the Beck's beer socialist

COLIN BROWN

NORTHWEST KLM

John Prescott, Labour's deputy leader, last night lodged an official complaint against photographs of himself being doctored to make him look like a "champagne socialist".

The true picture of Mr Prescott and his wife Pauline at a party showed that there were seem, I believe it is disgraceful ortles of Becks beer on their and unacceptable that a news-

table, not champagne bottles. But in the photograph that appeared in the London Evening Standard, one bottle of beer by Mr Prescott's hand had been airbrushed out of the pic-

ture. Another had been cropped so that it appeared to be the neck of a champagne bottle. "However harmless this may

paper should doctor pictures in this way. Mr Prescott said.

Airbrushing was often used by newspapers in the former Soviet Union to remove Soviet leaders who were no longer in favour in the Politburo. But it is probably the first time a beer bottle has been removed this way,

ment by admitting he was middle class. Beneath the photograph, It came after the press seized showing Mr Prescott in a dinon Mr Prescott's comments last ner jacket, was a caption saying week that he was "middle class" "champaene socialist".

the Standard said Mr Prescott the beer as part of Labour's "rehad handed Tony Blair's New buttal" policy in the run-up to Labour the ultimate endorsethe general election. He said: "The standards of the Tory press in the run-up to the election are bound to be an issue if this kind of thing goes on and we intend to draw attention to such malpractice at every turn."

BACK ISSUES

' go

'She had exorbitant bad taste, a voracious appetite for publicity, and swallowed up large amounts of money'

REBECCA FOWLER

She launched herself as the Duchess of laughter who would cast a modern ray of sunshine on the royal family. A decade on no one better epitomises their decline than Fergie and her legacy of lewd behaviour, miserable debts and public dis-

So what went wrong for the once great hope of the Windsors? There are so many moments that might be held up as the turning point from the toesucking to the plight of her cartoon character Budgie the Helicopter, to the recent revelation that she owes £3m, that it is almost impossible to recall the Duchess' heyday.

According to her critics the signs were there from the very start, when she married Prince Andrew at Westminster Abbey in 1986. As she turned round, not to face the cheering crowds with a regal smile, but to tie a leddy bear to the back of their horse-driven honeymoon carriage bearing the couple off into their short-lived sunset, they

Richard Barber, editor of OK magazine which is the rival of Fergie's great friend Hello!. said: "From that moment we knew we were in trouble and it was all going to go wrong. It was a question of there's a good sport and then there's Fergie." For those who were anxious

to see the royal family pulled into modern life, Sarah Ferguson, a thoroughly modern royal who had worked for a living in publishing, had a series of previous boyfriends and openly struggled with her weight, seemed the ideal antidote. The public was willing to at least give her grinning and hearty style a chance.

For many she symbolised the two conflicting world's of the royals, at once anxious to retain their dignity, but also eager to be seen to be relevant and up

It was when Fergie came under the fiercest fire from the oldstyle establishment that she was often at her best, not least when the usually supremely gentle Lord Charteris said of her: "She is simply a vulgarian. that is that." Instead of retaliating the Duchess responded with dignity by responding she had always thought he was a

Sat Satisfier

:- <u>:</u> 55) rises

However, it was a rare moment of wisdom in an otherwise chequered career as a leading player in the royal drama, constantly dogged by irritating fol-lies, from entering into a food fight with bread rolls during a flight with her father, Major Ron Ferguson.

very nice man.

The most disturbing concern for the royals must have been the gradual realisation that Fergie was only playing at being a royal, in the same way that she Fergie story is not over yet.

played at being a chalet girl, a publisher, an author. The only thing she appeared to remain constant to was her love of going on holiday and, to her credil, her two daughters Eugenie and Beatrice.

When Fergie became the first royal to open her doors to step that showed her and her family in casual mode, it was clear she was lapping up the limelight. They posed in their modern palace, the newly-built Sunningdale that resembled an out-of-town Tescos, and invited the public in to see how normal they were.

Fergie was not normal. The truth was there for all to see. She had exorbitantly expensive bad taste, a voracious appetite for publicity, and swallowed up large amounts of money, but unlike the rest of the Windsors she did not even have a birth-right.

If there was a turning point in her own image, it was the long-lens shot of Fergie in the South of France, having her toe sucked by her 'financial adviser', John Bryan, following her separation from Prince Andrew in 1992. Her remaining credibility nose-dived.

Although it was clear from the early high jinx of the Duchess of York that she was a potential time bomb for the royals, few could have anticipated the absurd depths to which the 'toe sucking' incident would bring them down. With so many other catastrophes in the wings with the Prince and Princess of Wales, it was nothing short of a disaster.

The Duchess remained tenacious in her determination to retain a place in royal life. She continued to campaign for her children's charity, albeit with the coffers empty, and she continued to appear in Hello! constantly reinventing herself with new hairstyles.

Even in Fergie's darkest hour her most loyal followers believed she might be ressurected as a main player in the royal saga. However, her behaviour has continued to heap yet more embarrassment on the family she married into.

The Duchess had a series of arguments with her staff, and two aides left her, prompting speculation that while her status has sunk her behaviour has become more demaning and erratic. Her pursuit of Thomas Muster, the tennis star, around the world, has also caused blushes on her behalf.

Perhaps the saddest image of the Duchess of York was her latest reinvention in Hello!, a pale, emaciated shadow of

Like the very first vulgarian, Thersites in the Iliad, a soldier who dares to talk back to his betters, she has received a mothers, who themselves resound beating for her vulgari-







roubled future for Beatrice and Eugenie

nie, will have been a legal minefield for lawyers negotiating

the Yorks' divorce. Exile of the Duchess from court circles could mean the Queen seeing less of the children, who are fifth and sixth in royal divorces have ended with mained within the Royal Family. But while Princess Margaret and the Princess Royal are the

Beatrice, seven, and Eugenie, six, are expected to continue living with their mother, seeing their father only when he is on leave from naval duties. The Duke, a senior pilot, is believed to have taken a shore job line to the throne. Previous in an attempt to save his marriage. But responsibility for two small girls at home could be an

unwelcome complication. Since March 1992, when the Palace announced that the Yorks were discussing a separation, the

The future of the young Queen's blood relations, the for-princesses, Beatrice and Euge-mer Sarah Ferguson is not. daily lives of the girls have been abandonment. The strain on turned upside down. Soon af-Beatrice and Eugenie has been terwards they moved with their mother from Sunninghill Park, Berkshire, and lost their normal family relationship with their father. In August 1993, they lost their nannies, Alison Wardley and Sally Fish, who had been with the Duchess since Princess

Beatrice was born. Marriages of couples with small children break up every day, but rarely with a worldwide blaze of publicity compounding their isolation and sense of

clear. There have been times when they have thrown tantrums - and even tableware at other diners in a hotel restaurant.

Zelda West-Meads, of the counselling service Relate whose patron is the Princess of Wales - said: "Kids whose parents are being divorced often regress to a younger age, thumb-sucking and bed-wetting. These children suffer a lot of pain and damage. Their lives are never the same again."

Goodbye to all that ... and Hello! to divorce

23 July 1986: Prince Andrew and Sarah "Fergie" Ferguson marry at Westminster Abbey. August 1988: First daughter Beatrice is born. The Duchess is much criticised after flying out to Australia to visit the Duke, leaving her daughter behind. 23 March 1990: Second daughter, Eugenie, is born. May 1990: Texan oilman Steve

Wyatt flies the Duchess and Beatrice in his private jet to Morocco for a holiday. October 1990: The couple move into their new, and much criticised, £5m home at Sunninghill

Park, Windsor. November 1991: Cleaner Maurice Maple finds photographs of the Duchess of York and Princess Beatrice on holiday at Steve Wyatt's flat in Cadogan

March 1992: Buckingham Palace announces that the Yorks are discussing a

August 1992: A paparazzi takes sneak pictures of the Duchess with John Bryan, a "financial adviser" kissing her instep as she sunbathes topiess at a villa in St Tropez, in the south of France. March 1993: Duchess tells Harpers and Queen magazine: "I want out of the whole thing so I can get on with my life and stop being blamed for everything ... I have been the scapegoat of the Waleses for the past four years."

July 1993: Duchess's hopes of becoming a goodwill ambas-sador for the United Nations are dashed.

October 1993: Duchess turns down her invitation to Lord Linley's wedding as insiders claim that she no longer feels part of the Royal Family.

9 December 1994: Divorce first raised by the Duchess at a charity Christmas party for motor neuron disease sufferers. January 1996: Years of profiligate spending leave her with debts estimated at around £3m. The Queen refuses to bail her out after previously giving gen-erous financial help from the

royal coffers.

January 1996: Duchess is banned from using the Queen's palace mail service free of charge and is also grounded from using Royal Squadron

March 1996: Ghostlike photographs of a heavily made-up Duchess appear plastered all over Hello! magazine. April 1996: Austrian tennis star Thomas Muster denies that he



The ghostlike face on

is having an affair with the Duchess and says he hopes she will patch things up with her estranged husband. 16 April 1996: Divorce between Duke and Duchess of York is

RAGE TAKEAWAYS CONSERVATORIES ACCOUNTANTS CAR BREAKDOWN RECOVERY ES GARAGE SERVICES FLORISTS REPLACEMENT WINDOWS TAXIS & PRIVATE HIRE VEHIC BODY REPAIRS ROOFING SERVICES LOCKSMITHS PIZZAS GLAZIERS CAR HIRE SOLICITO ILE TELEPHONES ELECTRICIANS HOTELS BLOCKED DEADLES

GE SERVIC ODY REPA ES GARA

E١

OVALS & ST **RECOVERY** CARPE VATE HIRE VEH **E** SOLICITORS **Leaming** courier VIBERS RE COVERY

OCKSMITHS PIZZAS GLAZIERS CAR HIRE SOLICITO ELECTRICIANS HOTELS BLOCKED DRAINS & PIPE CLEANING COURIERS **DOMESTIC CENTRAL HEATING ESTATE AGENTS PLUMBERS REMOVALS & ST** CONSERVATORIES PUBS ACCOUNTANTS CAR BREAKDOWN RECOVERY CARPE

Whatever business or service you're looking for, local or national, call Freepages. We'll do the searching and it won't cost you a penny.



0500 192 192

http://www.freepages.co.uk

Airport homes scheme 'threatens Domesday Book villages' NICHOLAS SCHOON Environment Correspondent Environment Correspondent leveral villages listed in the Domesday Book could faze differential relates since Roman times'. Now with 625 residents, Stanssed and environmental responsibility of the policy of the Conservation association. The Steele said the councils was mainly in the purish of Birlings and the purish of Birli

obliteration if plans go ahead for thousands of new homes to meet the needs of Britain's fastest-growing airport, the High Court was told vesterday. The development at Stanst-

He was appearing on behalf of Felsted, Takeley, Birchanger and Little Dunmow parish councils and a local conservation group which have banded together in an attempt to save

ing with the location of housing

to serve Stansted. They also wanted a second public inquiry into the highlycontroversial issue of making the right provision for the air-

Mr Steele told Deputy Judge George Bartlett QC: "The im-As the Uttlesford local plan pact of those proposals on the now stood; provision had been four rural communities cannot made for 2,500 new homes for be overstated. They will have airport staff to be spread over four locations - Felsted, with a the gravest consequences in population of 650; Great Dunsocial, economic, educational,

Yet the people most directiv affected, the residents of the four parishes and the communities themselves, had been unlawfully denied the oppor-

tions to mount the court challenge. Mr Steele said the scale of the development relative to the size of the existing communities was "immense".

He added that the villagers wanted the district plan to be overturned and another one held because "the first one was

seriously flawed".

Brewers tighten code on 'alcopop' marketing

REBECCA FOWLER

Britain's seven largest brewers and distillers have widened their code of conduct on under-age drinking in an attempt to ensure alcohol is not marketed in a way that is appealing to children. The move comes amid claims that up to 17 per cent of 11- to 15-yearolds drink regularly.

The code follows concern prompted earlier this year over the sale alcoholic versions of fruit-flavoured soft drinks known as "alcopops", including lemonade, which were deemed particularly appealing to the under-18s, and it extends the existing guidelines to cover all alcoholic drinks.

The Portman Group, the alcohol policy institute sponsored by the drinks industry which published the code, has called for a ban on any marketing that would appeal specifically to the under-18s. It also urges alcoholic drinks to be sold in bottles not cans to avoid confusion.

Dr John Rae, director of the Portman Group, said: "We are determined to see that alcoholic drinks are clearly aimed at an adult market. If reasonable people think the drinks are aimed primarily at young people under 18, the code has been broken." Despite the concern over alcopops, when under-18s attempt to purchase alcohol their first choice is either cider and builder's yard in Deal, or beer, according to research of 10 shopkeepers said underage purchasing had not increased since the fruit-flavoured drinks came on the market.

But the group had been accused by anti-alcohol campaigners of not going far enough to protect children with the code, which is voluntary. They have called for stricter enforcement of licensing laws, and "test purchase" of alcohol

schemes at supermarkets and off-licences which would allow the police to work with young

Alcohol Concern, which campaigns against alcohol misuse, found that recent research showed 17 per cent of 11- to 15year-olds admitted drinking regularly in 1994, before alcopops hit the market, compared with 13 per cent in 1990.

Eric Appleby, director of Alcohol Concern, said: "If the new code is to be anything more than a cosmetic public relations exercise, it must have more teeth and be rigorously monitored by an independent agency rather than the drinks trade itself."

He added: "There is no doubt that alcopops, with their sweet taste masking high alcohol contents, are attracting under-age drinkers, and that is something we cannot risk at a time when teenage drinking is on the increase.

📕 A gang known as "The Libyans" smuggled millions of pounds' worth of bootleg beer and wine into the UK for sale in cash and carry stores, a jury heard yesterday. Under the leadership of a

man code-named Gaddafi, the operation involved 50 hired vans and several seven-ton lorries, Maidstone Crown Court in Kent was told. Working from a rented house

Kent, up to four vans would commissioned by the Portman make twice daily trips across the from hypermarkets in Calais. The vans, "loaded to the

gunwales", would then return to Deal. The drink would eventually be distributed in London. Four men deny evading beer and wine duty, while 10 others have admitted the charge. The

veillance operation. The trial continues.

men were arrested in Decem-ber 1994 after a Customs sur-



Hive of activity: The Ponte Vecchio in Florence with its shops and businesses could be a guide to how a habitable "Londoners' bridge" could operate

Gummer outlines vision of bridge to unite Londonders

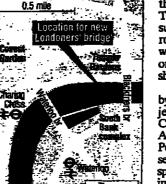
ROS WYNNE-JONES

A competition to design a habitable "Londoners' bridge". alive with housing and commerce, was launched yesterday by John Gummer, Secretary of State for the Environment. The proposed bridge, for

which the competition organisers hope to gain commercial backing, is to span the River Thames from Temple Gardens, near Covent Garden, on the north bank to the London Weekend Television building near the South Bank Centre. Designs, which are to be

submitted by a shortlist of architects, will form the centre-Royal Academy of Arts in September. Sponsored by the Corporation of London, the exhibition will feature a river meandering through the main gallery at Burlington House, Piccadilly, spanned by models of historic and futuristic bridges.

Contemporary proposals for bridges across the Thames will also be represented, including Will Alsop's design of a home for the Institute of Contemporary Arts (ICA) at Blackfriars



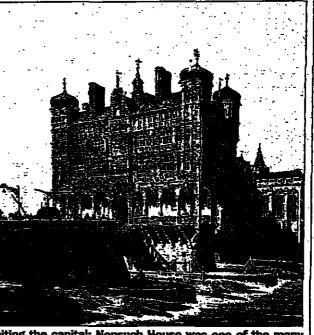
of a housing scheme between St Paul's Cathedral and Bankside.

Mr Gummer, who is also minister for London, said the concept of a habitable bridge in the capital harked back to the old London Bridge, which was stacked with houses and businesses and "on which people felt themselves to be a part of this great city". The minister said the purpose of a bridge should be to join, and not divide, London. He added: "It is well-known

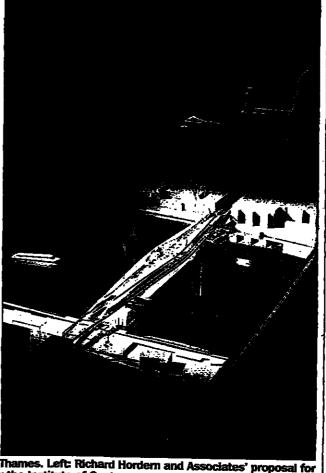
that I wish to see the River Thames, one of our most unsung assets, playing a greater role in the life of London. This would be a bridge of confidence on which people would work, shop and live on the river itself."

The competition; sponsored by Thames Water, is a joint project between the Pompidou Centre in Paris and the Royal Academy. Jean Dethier, of the Pompidou Centre, whose research into habitable bridges in-spired the project, said: "We are interested in the interdisciplinary approach of modern art and architecture and its ability to connect history with the present and the future. We are innon-segregational concept with

a strong civic link." Entries include the German architect Daniel Liebskind and two British firms, Future Systems and Branson Coates. The exhibition is being designed by Nigel Coates, professor of ar-chitectural design at the Royal College of Art. Mr Coates said he was planning to run a river through the gallery just below eye level, so that visitors could see into the designs



Uniting the capital: Nonsuch House was one of the many houses and business which straddled the old London Bridge



Bridging the city: Two of the contemporary ideas for the contest to build a bridge across the Thames. Left: Richard Hordem and Associates' proposal for the Gallery Bridge at Bankside and (right) Will Alsop's design which would provide a home for the Institute of Contemporary Arts next to Blackfriars

What's the connection between Newton and Great Falls?

and rich richer'

A quarter of the population – 13 to 14 million people – live on less than half the average in-come, the Child Poverty Action Group said yesterday, writes

The figure is more than double the number in 1979: one in three children is growing up in poverty, while living standards of the poor and affluent are "marching in opposite directions" the pressure group said in the latest edition of its handbook, Poverty: The Facts. From 1979 to 1992/3, the

real income, after housing costs, of the poorest tenth fell by 18 per cent, while the richest tenth enjoyed a "staggering" 61-per-cent increase. Britain saw a sharper rise in inequality than any developed country except

Far from wealth trickling down from the rich to the poor, figures from Economic Trends show household income has filtered up from the poorest sections of society to the richer ones, the CPAG said.

Even after redistribution by taxes and benefits, the poorest fifth saw their share fall from 9.5 per cent in 1979 to 6.6 per cent, while the share of the richest fifth has gone from 37 per cent to 44 per cent.

The report calls for fairer taxation, including a more progressive structure, to improve benefits for the poor, warning that policies which encourage privatisation of parts of Social Security and the means-testing of much of the remainder would "result in a general reluctance to finance social welfare".

'Poor are poorer | Donegal farmers lose 800 sheep to two rogue collies

ALAN MURDOCH

Irish sheep farmers are demanding helicopter support in attempts to track down two rogue collies with a taste for spring lamb, which are being blamed for killing up to 800 Donegal sheep.

Aerial surveillance is needed because ground searches of the Glencolumbkille area by dozens of farmers have failed to detect which local forest plantation the dogs are operating from. Marksmen from England and Northern Ireland have attempted to halt the slaughter by shooting the dogs, but without success.

The 42 affected farmers, who have formed their own watches to guard against renewed attacks, are convinced from the frequency of the attacks that the

animals are living wild.
"They are hiding in forestry
and it is very difficult to get them", said Christopher O'Connor, local representative of the Irish Farmers' Association (IFA). "In other cases, where [domestic dogs] were returning home after attacks it was a bit easier to control them."

The dogs, apparently pets gone wild, began their killing spree in the peninsula west of Killybegs and Ardara last November. Many more sheep have been attacked or gone missing than have actually been eaten.

Mr O'Connor said with the almost daily killing the situation is becoming more urgent. "When they get a taste for it. their most savage instincts come

out. At the moment most of the sheep are down off the hills for lambing. But the farmers are running out of grass there, and want them back on the hills, so they are very anxious that the

dogs are caught."
Farming sources say the problem is particularly acute in Spring with the birth of new season's lambs. Pastures filled with heavily-pregnant ewes or new-ly-born lambs provide an irresistible temptation to canine predators.

The economic consequences of attacks at this time of year for farmers are serious, the IFA stresses: "Killing of young lambs means the cash crop for the year is destroyed." Poor land quality means sheep and forestry are the only viable farming activi-

Alibi for assault takes court by surprise

A leading churchman accused of indecently assaulting a 17-year-old girl in his home was was meant to have taken place, a court heard yesterday.

A special defence of alibi was entered for Professor Donald Macleod of the Free Church of Scotland, against the charge of

The 55-year-old professor. who lectures in systematic theclogy at the Free Church of Scotland College in Edinburgh, denies a total of six charges of indecent assault involving five women which allegedly took place between 1985 and 1993.

Edinburgh Sheriff Court earlier heard a woman, who is now 28, describe how Professor Macleod assaulted her in his study in the last week of July 1985. But yesterday Andrew Hardie QC, defending, said that his client had been out of Edinburgh from 23 July 1985. He had been in Stornaway, in the Western Isles, with his wife and two of his sons and had not returned until 2 August.

The defence lawyer made a motion asking for a special defence alibi to be accented by the court. He said that although such a defence should have been intimated before the first witness in the case gave evidence, there were special circumstances in this case because it was only under crossexamination that the witness had given a definite date for her complaint.

He pointed out that in the charge, the Crown said that the offence had taken place beand he criticised the Crown for not getting a definite date from the witness when they were preparing her for the trial.

The depute procurator-fiscal, Margaret Graham, for the prosecution, said it was too late to accept such a defence. But Sheriff John Horsburgh QC, granted the motion saying he was doing so "in the interests of justice". He added: "It appears to me that no fault can be laid at the door of the accused or those acting on his behalf for the situation". He said it was "un-fortunate" that the Crown had not obtained a date for the charge before the trial.

The witness, who was the first in the case to have completed her evidence, may now he recalled

Later yesterday, a 35-year-old lecturer in statistics gave evidence, denying that she was part of a conspiracy among members of the Free Church of Scotland to discredit Professor Macleod.

The woman, who claims that she was indecently assaulted by the professor on two occasions, told Ms Graham: "I have been willing to say what happened to me. I have not been part of a group of conspirators."

The witness also said that she

had not previously heard of the Dorcas fund which was referred to in court on Monday by Mr Hardie, who said it had been set up to raise money to get peo-ple to give evidence against Pro-fessor Macleod. The witness said that only the Crown was paying her expenses to appear-in court.

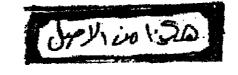
in court.

She added that "in an ideal world" the matter would not have come to court. But she had come to court because she was aware there were "patterns of behaviour" and she feared that Professor Macleod could assault

another woman. A third woman who has accused Professor Macleod of indecently assaulting her later confirmed to the court that a private fund had paid for her to travel from her home in Australia to give evidence. The 36year-old had her ticket paid for her by the Dorcas fund after the Crown refused to meet the bill for her expenses.

lu court Mr Hardie produced a document which asked for contributions to meet the £1,500 cost of bringing over from Australia a woman who had complained about Professor Macleod. Any extra money raised would go to charity, the document said.

The trial continues today,



Vouchers designed to expand private nurseries at the expense of state schools may have the opposite effect, campaigners said last night.

State primary schools are pressurising parents to withdraw their children from private nurseries and instead to bring them to reception classes at the age

Parents of four-year-olds in Westminster, Kensington and Chelsea, Wandsworth and Norfolk have been given £1,100 vouchers which can be exchanged for a place at a private school, a state school, or at a

playgroup. The scheme, one of the Prime Minister's favoured projects, is due to be introduced nationally in April 1997. But it now looks likely to cause embarrassment to the Government as Conservative local authorities fight back with aggressive publicity campaigns aimed at keeping children in the state sector.

Wandsworth has spent £3,000 on advertising its services.

cle to the private sector the scheme looks likely to weaken the sector's position, with parents being forced to move their children into state schools to secure their places.

The voucher scheme was designed to lead to the setting up of new private nurseries, but most of the expansion will probably be in primary school recention classes. In Norfolk the Government has paid for 16 local authority nursery units.

Yesterday the Department for Education and Employment said it was too early to say whether any new private nurseries had been opened as a result of the scheme.

Experts say that a reception class is no substitute for nursery education, which must have a qualified teacher for every 13 pupils while there is no limit on primary classes.

Susan Hay, owner of a string of private nursery schools and chair of the Childcare Association, said that the Government had forced unwelcome competition on to schools.

We have been pushed into battle as a result of the vouch-Instead of giving extra mus- cr scheme, and it's a battle no need for blackmail."



Walking tall: David Leipnik, vice-chairman of the Friends of the Museum of Kent Life, at Maidstone, tends hops in the

'Copycat' cancer therapy goes on trial

LIZ HUNT

Clinical trials have begun on a new approach to treating cancer, using "copycat" molecular blockers to stop tumour cells multiplying, scientists said

tree-

illire

here

arily

Patients suffering from different cancers will initially take part in the trials at the Western General Hospital, Edinburgh, to test the potential of the new therapy.

However, one form of lung cancer, small cell lung cancer or oat cell carcinoma which is responsible for 25 per cent of all new cases in the UK, is the real focus of the trial. Initially responsive to drugs, the cancer returns in all but 5 to 10 per cent of patients and is usually resistant to drugs the second time.

Professor John Smyth, director of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund's Clinical Oncology Unit at the hospital, said yesterday: "We desperately need entirely new approaches if we are to make major differences for patients with a number of types of cancer - particularly the common types.

The trial is the culmination of a 15-year research project by scientists at the ICRF who have shown that molecules known as neuropeptides are potent growth factors. They dock on to the receptor sites on the surface of some cancer cells and stimulate cell growth, sending signals which over-ride healthy cell controls which limit multiplication. Some cancer cells even make their own growth factors to accelerate the process further.

Dr Enrique Rozengurt, from the ICRF's London laboratory, said: "What we have done is discovered ways of blocking these growth factors using antagonist lookalikes which themselves dock onto the receptors, getting in the way of the growth factors. We have identified a group of antagonists which can block every type of growth factor with a particular type of signal."

that chemotherapy followed by growth factor blockers will be a more effective treatment for small cell lung cancer. By the end of the decade, Professor Smyth said, scientists will know if they have made a breakthrough in treatment for this type of cancer.

There are 42,300 new cases of lung cancer each year, of which 10,000 are of small cell lung cancer. The Phase 1 trials in Edinburgh will determine the safety and efficacy of the new therapy, and the appropriate dose.

BBC 'biased' towards Tories

MARIANNE MACDONALD Media Correspondent

More than one-fifth of television viewers believe the BBC's coverage is biased toward the Conservative Party, a survey by the Independent Television Commission reveals today.

Although the public service corporation is required to be impartial under the terms of its charter, 21 per cent of viewers felt that BBC1 unfairly favoured cent said the same of BBC2. Only 7 per cent said ITV was

biased toward the Conservatives and just 3 per cent thought it was the case with Channel 4. By contrast, 7 per cent felt BBC1 showed bias towards the Labour Party and only 4 per cent said the same of BBC2. Seven per cent also believed

favoured Labour. The findings are part of an annual poll of 1,000 viewers, carried out last year by the com-

ITV and Channel 4 unfairly

Broadcasting Act to research public opinion. The overwhelming percep-

tion of bias towards the Conservatives, especially on BBC1. will add pressure to the corporation in the run-up to the gen-It set up a political monitor-

ing unit last year after attempts by Alistair Campbell, Tony Blair's press secretary, to ensure the Labour leader's keynote speech at the party conference OJ Simpson murder verdict.

Viewers also spoke out about the bias against different professions and groups of the population they believed that all the terrestrial channels showed in their news and current affairs

They thought most bias was shown against single parents (27 per cent) with the unemployed (24 per cent) and trade unions (23 per cent) close behind. The disabled were also on the list (16 per cent), as were social service mercial television regulator, employees (18 per cent) and which is required by the 1990 women (11 per cent).

Three deny student's murder

that doesn't need to happen,"

"As for suggesting that par-

ents have more choice, it's a

load of boloncy. They are going

to opt for a good primary school

even if it means forfeiting their

child's early years in order to get

them a place for later," she said.

icised the scheme. Michael Gar-

ratt, head of St William's

primary school in Norwich, and the Norfolk secretary of the Na-

tional Association of Head

Teachers, said his school had al-

ways taken children without

funding at the beginning of the year in which they were live but

others would now do the same.

nancial advantage for all schools to take children in the

year in which they are five." Mr

A spokesman for the De-

partment for Education and

Employment said vouchers

will be expansion over time in

the state, private and voluntary

sectors," he said. "State schools

have nothing to fear. There is

Ministers expect that there

gave parents more choice.

Garratt said.

"There's going to be a fi-

State-school heads also crit-

Three young men pleaded not guilty yesterday to the murder 18-year-old Stephen awrence at the start of a private prosecution brought by

Neil Acourt, 20; Luke Knight, 18, and Gary Dobson, 20, all of Eltham in south-east London, appeared at the Old Bailey charged with murdering the A-level student, who was stabbed to death on 22 April 1993. The trial is expected to

Neither Mr Lawrence's father Neville, 52, a builder, nor his wife, Doreen, would comment as they arrived at court. It is believed to be only the fourth private prosecution for murder in 130 years.

Mr and Mrs Lawrence brought a private case against the men after initial proceedings against two people were dropped by the Crown Prose-cution Service in 1993.

The Stephen Lawrence Campaign is raising legal funds and the case will be headed by Michael Mansfield QC.

'Porn video' firefighter loses sacking claim

A firefighter lost his claim for unfair dismissal yesterday after he was sacked for making a hard core pomographic video which included jokes about the fire March last year.

He claimed the video was for the vi

Mark Gregory, 26, was sacked for gross misconduct last August from Notting-hamshire Fire and Rescue Service after copies of the video were shown in at least five fire stations across the county. In the hour-long film Mr

Gregory, who was married at the time, is heard telling his girlfriend Janine, "What do you think of firemen now?" and

He claimed the video was for private use only, although he admitted in the hearing yesterday he had passed a copy to a friend. "It was just a light-hearted thing in my own time. She [his girlfriend] was quite excited that someone else might be watching it. I told her that other people might watch it."

Mr Gregory said he covered

up for colleagues when he was: interviewed by senior fire offi-This one's for Red Watch".

The Nottingham tribunal heard that Mr Gregory, who

PHONE

FREE

0500

600

YOUR FREE

ROAD ATLAS

REF 2687

people and to protect yourself at that stage. I have lost my job, lost my wife and I was in complete turmoil and, yes, at that stage I put my colleagues first."
But the fire service argued

that he was guilty of gross mis-conduct and had distributed the video, committing a criminal offence. He was dismissed.
Mr Gregory, of Nuthall, Nottingham, was cautioned by police after the video was

discovered, but was not charged. The tribunal chairman, Detek Richards, said: "He must have realised that the consequence of asking anybody else to make copies of the video was that it was ikely it would be seen by others. We find it was gross misconduct."

Army offensive averts a recruitment crisis

traditional way, using stilts to tie coconut string to wires for the plants to grow up

CHRISTOPHER BELLAMY Defence Correspondent

A potentially "catastrophic" shortage of recruits which would have made the British Army operationally ineffective has been averted by urgent government action, it was disclosed yesterday.

General Sir Michael Rose, the Adjutant-General - the Army's head of personnel - said that if swift action had not been taken to halt closures of high-street recruiting offices and induce soldiers to stay on, the Army, would within a few years, have been 20,000 short of its authorised total of 90,000 trained soldiers. The shortage, mostly in infantry, armour and artillery, would have made it "incapable of fulfilling its

defence roles". As Sir Michael addressed a

conference in Whitehall on the 'Ethos and Image" of the British Army, MPs heard that black people were deterred from joining up because of a perception of "institutional dis-crimination". The House of Commons Armed Forces Bill Committee heard more evidence from the Commission of

Racial Equality. Bob Purkiss, who led a recent inquiry into allegations of racial inequality, said he doubted the time allowed for implementation of the recent "action plan" agreed between the CRE and the MoD could be implemented in the time allowed.

Perceptions of racism are one of a number of factors discouraging recruits. The Army's image was also dented recently by the killing of Louise Jensen by three drunk British soldiers in Cyprus. Although the

recruits shortage has been averted, the Army needs to attract 15,000 soldiers this year and 17,000 in each of the following two to three years.

Public perception is crucial to recruiting. The conference heard that 43 per cent of recruits come from broken homes and that mothers play an even more important role in influencing them for or against the Army. Sir Michael said the fall in

numbers was due to abandoning junior entry and to rapid closure of recruiting offices. The Army wants to reintroduce the schemes for junior leaders and junior soldiers, abolished in 1992, to help maintain numbers generally and provide a cadre of future sergeants and sergeant-majors. Bonuses of £1,000 to induce soldiers to stay on an extra year had also been effective in staunching the loss.

Women-only car The Arm park 'unfair to men'

Equal Opportunities Commisbecause it is said to be a form

of discrimination against men. Exeter City Council opened the first all-female section of its King William Street car park to encourage women on their own to venture into the city centre at night. Within hours of the opening, a complaint was sent to the commission and the council has been told it is breakmg sex discrimination laws.

Britain's first women-only car with no sanctions against men park looks set to be closed be- who park in the reserved places cause it is unfair to men. The and signs read: "Kindly leave these spaces vacant for women sion wants the parking scheme at Exeter in Devon scrapped says that under the 1975 Sex Discrimination Act public services must be offered to men and women on an equal basis.

The 10 spaces are near to the exit, so it is quick and easy for drivers to reach their cars. It is also well lit and security cameras give women drivers more But the scheme has come in

Steven Blyth was born in 1968 and lives in Bolton. In 1994 he for criticism from the group it lished by Redbeck Press at £3.75. seeks to help. Some women fear The scheme is only voluntary it may attract potential attackers.

DAILY POEM

By Steven Blyth

The amputation to stop the spread Failed. They gave him, at best, six weeks. "A goblin sits on my stump," he said. "It tells lies, makes me reach for books And things with air. That chaplain is just The same when he perches on my bed To preach, promising I'll exist Afterwards." When I found him dead The gardener was burning heaps of leaves. Some caught the breeze and blew away, Blackened. The chaplain's poor eyes Stared through his thick glasses. "Today," He said later, "I saw ravens. They flew near the fire in the gardens."

was awarded an Eric Gregory Award from the Society of Authors. This poem is taken from his first collection, The Gox, pub-

Connection between Phoenix and Ash?

7 H. 120

Power cay rises

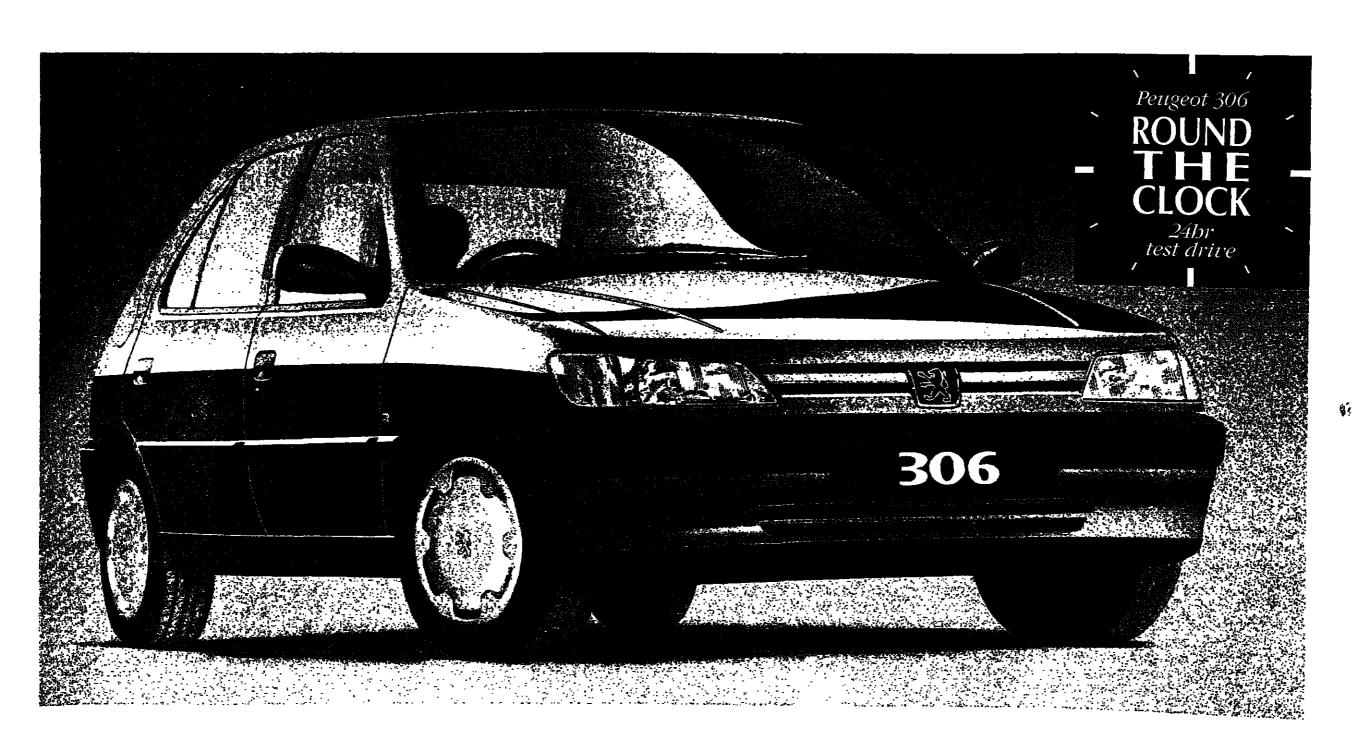
Looking for the LOWEST premium? ATLAS

333 TO QUALIFY FOR PLEASE QUOTE LINES ARE OPEN Bam Dpm WEEKDNYS. 9am-2pm 8A11A9DA15.

CAR INSURANCE

Exclusive Road Atlas

AND YOU'LL STILL RESPECT IT IN THE MORNING.

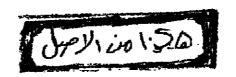


FOR A FREE 24 HOUR TEST DRIVE IN A PEUGEOT 306 CALL 0345 000 306' (QUOTING 11R).

306
PEUGEOT
THE DRIVE OF YOUR LIFE

THE PEUGEOT 306.

#24 HOUR FEST DRIVE OFFER ONLY OPEN TO DRIVERS AGED 25 TO 70 WHO HOLD 4 FULL VALID UK DRIVING LICENCE FOR OVER 1 YEAR, OFFER NOT AVAILABLE IN NORTHERN IRELAND, DRIVERS CONVICTED OF A MAJOR DRIVING OFFERGE IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS ARE AUTOMATICALLY AT THE DEALER FOR THE DURATION OF THE TEST DRIVE RESTRICTED TO A MAXIMUM OF 150 MILES THERE WILL BE A CHARGE IF THIS IS EXCEPTED.
A TEST DRIVE AGREEMENT MUST BE COMPLETED BY EVERY DRIVER PRIOR TO THE TEST DRIVE. OFFER APPLIES TO ALL 306 MODELS INCLUDING SEARN PLAND OF 150 MILES THERE WILL BE A CHARGE IF THIS IS EXCEPTED.



oung orced

ons I

"Does the Prime Minister take

encouragement from the fact that this summer at the Oval will

see the 50th anniversary of the

longest and largest stand for the

last wicket in the history of Eng-

lish cricket?" asked Mr Brooke.

jor said he was aware of the an-niversary. "I look forward certainly at the Oval to seeing

many performances like that by

Surrey, perhaps by England.

And I have absolutely no doubt

that politically we will see their

Tories, nobody on the Opposition

benches had a Wisden to hand.

Inside

Stephen

The record last wicket stand of

249 at the Oval in 1946 was

scored by the opposition - by CT Sarwate and SN Banerjee play-

abour was at least rattled

during the second reading

of the Broadcasting Bill as Vir-

ginia Bottomley highlighted the party's U-turn on cross-media

ownership rules. Labour had

lurched from "paranoid ter-

ror" to "sycophantic devotion"

to media groups, the Heritage

The Bill eases restrictions on

cross-media ownership and paves the way for digital tele-

vision in Britain, but Mrs Bot-

tomley said there was no

commonsense justification for

moving at one bound to whole-

Rupert Murdoch's News In-

ternational are excluded from

control of ITV companies, be-

cause each has more than 20 per

cent of national newspaper cir-

culation. But Lewis Moonie,

Labour's broadcasting spokes-

man, has argued for an end to

Both the Mirror Group and

Secretary said.

sale deregulation.

ing for India against Surrey.

Goodwin

Parliament

Fortunately for the cheering

equivalent."

A Surrey supporter, Mr Ma-

with-

non,

e go

iree-

ng at

will

pos-litire

215 -

arily who iful-

nost

:ru

Poll defeat

John Major yesterday de-clared himself dug in for the

political equivalent of a record

final wicket stand as Tony Blair

exploited the Conservatives'

Staffordshire by-election. With Brian Jenkins, the man

who cut Mr Major's majority to

just one, waiting in the wings to

take his Commons seat, the first

Question Time after the Easter

recess was a romp for Labour.

Mr Blair repeatedly pressed the Prime Minister to explain the

defeat then supplied his own an-

swers - "People don't trust the

Conservative Party any more" -while Mr Major failed to make

much capital out of Labour's

Clare Short, the Shadow

transport secretary who dared to speak her mind, was on the

Opposition front bench for the

exchanges. Mr Major mischievously welcomed her to the

chamber, saying he was de-lighted she had been "untied

and ungagged" but went easy on

her suggestion that those on £34,000-plus should pay more

Mr Blair said the underlying reason for last Thursday's by-

election defeat last was that peo-

ple did not trust the Tories on

railways, on tax, or on the health service — and the soon-

er they get the chance to say so

loud and clear the better for

Clifton-Brown asked Mr Major

about an article in the Sunday

Express newspaper claiming Mr

Blair had told journalists that

the top rate of tax would be

£40,000 and subsequently denied altogether by Labour spin

doctors, Mr Clifton-Brown said.

But this gift was snatched from

the Prime Minister's hands by

Speaker Betty Boothroyd with

a reminder that questions

should be related to Govern-

ment policy. Miss Boothroyd

It was left to former Tory cab-

inet minister Peter Brooke to of-

fer Mr Major a refuge in an

ruled out any answer.

Photograph: Philip Meech | world of willow and leather. thresholds.

The figure was then raised to

raised for those on £30,000.

Tory backbencher Geoffrey

to the Exchequer.

mixed messages on tax.

rumiliation in the South East

puts Major on ; sticky wicket

'Vulnerable young' are forced out of homes

GLENDA COOPER

More than eight out of ten young people who leave home are forced out due to factors such as abuse and family breakdown, according to Centre-point, the charity for the homeless.

Unlike in the Eighties when people left home voluntarily to find work, the first nationwide picture of homeless young peo-ple in 1996 is one of "highly vulnerable, very young people struggling actively to overcome hardships according to the sur-vey, which questioned more than 7,500 people, over 5,000 of which were under the age of 25.

The charity fears that the new Housing Bill - which is passing through the committee stage and proposes removing local authorities' duty to provide permanent housing for the "statutory homeless" – will make the situation even worse.

"Changes to Government policy look set to worsen youth homelessness," Victor Ade-bowale, chief executive of Centrepoint, said.

"Proposed restrictions on housing benefit will leave more young people at risk. Efforts to help young homeless people continue to be hampered by the confusion of housing and social services using different legislation. And the Housing Bill is proving so far to be a missed opportunity to make housing legislation and the Children Act work coherently to protect

young people at risk."
In 1987 "pull" factors, such as moving to find work or needing to establish their independence, were given as reasons for leaving home by more than half those surveyed. By 1994-95 only 14 per cent cited such factors. The report, The New

just limited to London anymore, but is a national issue.

The study looked at six centres around the country and found that nearly 3,000 young people were monitored in Dorset, in Bournemouth, Poole, Christchurch and Purbeck, Similarly, the Simon Community in Northern Ireland saw 2,044.

Nearly four out of ten people arriving at Centrepoint which caters for those between 16 and 25 --- were17 years or younger and 48 per cent were either black or from ethnic minorities. This compares with a a 5.5 per cent overall proportion of the population belonging to ethnic minorities. While three-quarters were

actively seeking employment, only about 1 in 20 had any sort of work, although 61 per cent had gained some kind of qualification. More than four in ten had no income whatsoever on arriving at Centrepoint.

Large numbers of young and vulnerable people were still found to be sleeping rough before they make their way to a hostel. One-third reported living that way before going to Centrepoint.

Many young people may find it difficult to be accepted as officially homeless because they have to be proved "vulnerable", the report said, and social services operate different criteria to ess vulnerability

Centrepoint also says that measures in the last Budget restricting housing benefit to under-25s to the local average "single room rent" will limit the already restricted choice of private-sector accommodation available. Its report calls for housing benefit for young people to be the same for those over 25, and for a national strategy



Picture of Youth Homelessness in to tackle youth homelessness. Roughing it: A young man at Waterloo, south London. Centrepoint warns on youth homelessness

Paddy Ashdown pre-empted eral Democrat fears - revealed moves by the two main parties by launching the Liberal Democrats' local election campaign yesterday, brushing aside the idea that he might be squeezed by Tony Blair's move to claim Labour as a "party of the centre", writes John Rentonl. Mr Ashdown said: "I entire-

welcome the fact that the Labour leader thinks his party ought to be a party of the cen-tre." But he dismissed both the idea that Labour councils such as Liverpool were of the centre, and the threat from New Labour. "If they were going to squeeze us they would have squeezed us last year, and they didn't."

At last year's elections, Lib-

in a leaked internal memo proved too pessimistic, as the party gained 500 seats to become the second-largest in local government. But Labour still achieved their best ever result, gaining 1,800 seats. In the memo, the Liberal Democrat councillors' leader, Andrew Stunell, admitted: "Labour are currently the 'natural' home of

dissident Conservatives." This year, on 2 May, fewer seats are at stake, and Mr Stunell has only predicted gains of only 50-100 seats. Mr Blair and Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, launch the Labour and Conservative campaigns today.

Labour leadership to press on with mayors

tics, widely believed to have

London published by the par-

ty last week and there has been strong opposition from some council leaders. Mr Blair will now go significantly further in his speech to a conference on the future of the capital in making it clear that he wants the idea ful-ly developed in time for inclusion

in the general election manifesto.

The idea comes in the wake of leaks suggesting that at least one government minister has become converted to the idea of a wider elected authority for London. In a letter to the Downing Street Policy Unit, the minister proposes that the wealthy City of London Corporation — which Labour would preserve should disappear under plans for

constituencies have denied writing the letter. But according to the leak the anonymous minister has broken ranks with Tory policy with proposals to counter Labour's plans, saying they would "give us something fresh and ... refresh our commitment

to local government". abolished in return for the creation of a Scottish Parliament.

Unions hand 'shopping | Ashdown opens | list' of demands to Blair poll campaign

BARRIE CLEMENT Labour Editor

In the wake of his successful charm offensive among American business leaders, Tony Blair was yesterday handed a "shopping list" of demands by the big unions. Above all, the Labour leader was urged in the first year of government to toughen up proposals to give unions rights to recognition for collective bargaining.

Davey Hall, president of the

moderate Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union, called for a Blair administration to force employers to recognise unions where a majority of workers wanted it. So far,

rights where more than half the

workers belong to a union.

Mr Hall told the Scottish Trades Union Congress annual congress in Edinburgh that unions often found it impossible to recruit employees if there was no recognition in the first place.

The big unions have already made their views clear in the private "contact group" of Labour politicians and union leaders, but yesterday was the first time the demand was made public. Labour's union affiliates, which command half the vote at

policy-making conferences, ard the issue as critical Mr Hall told the 500 delegates:

Labour policy only envisages "If we only get one piece of pro-legislation to grant negotiating gressive legislation, it should be the right of recognition of bargaining and representation."

A Labour government should also abolish or drastically reduce the qualifying period for claiming unfair dismissal. "It is this injustice that has contributed more than anything else to the current culture of the disposable worker and the zerohours contract," Mr Hali said.

Bill Speirs, deputy general secretary of the Scottish TUC, said that in its first year a Blair government should legislate to establish a Scottish parliament. There should also be an emerency programme to create 80,000 new jobs in Scotland.

DONALD MACINTYRE

Tony Blair, the Labour leader, will today give an unmistakable signal of his intention to go ahead with plans for big-city mayors — including one for London — after overcoming opposition within his own party. Mr Blair has won over scep-

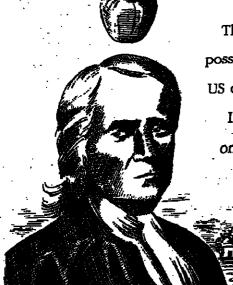
included his environment spokes-man, Frank Dobson, and will today say he regards the idea of directly elected mayors as a key way to revive local democracy. Although he has floated the idea before it was only briefly mentioned in the document on

a new central elected authority.

A new call for Labour's plans for Scottish devolution to be ratified by a referendum is made by the left-of-centre Institute of Public Policy Research today. The IPPR also calls for the number of Scottish Westminster MPs to be reduced and Secretary of State for Scotland to be

What's the connection between your doorstep, a linousine, 200 U.S. cities and a pair of comfy socks?

ticines Service mailable on Northwest and RLM transabutic flights with connecting service on Air UK of KLM, O 1906 Northwest Anthres, Inc. Northwest enough paper products in one west to save over 26,000 trees. O

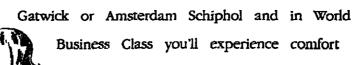


(or any of the other 15 towns called Newton) all the way to Great Falls, Mantana.

The most relaxing, hassle free trip you've ever had is now possible when you fly World Business Class to any of 200 US cities with Northwest Airlines or our partner KLM. If you live within 60 miles of Gatwick or even one of our 19 regional airports we'll send a complementary chauffeur driven car' to

pick you up from your front door. Then check in your luggage at your local airport and forget about it until you reach the States.

Your transatlantic flight will be out of



down to the tips of your toes.

You can even earn free travel not just to the United States but to more than 400 destinations in 80 countries on 6 continents.

So if you don't want to miss the connection, fly Northwest Airlines.



step in Ash, Survey (or any of the other 6 towns called Ash) all the way to Phoenix, Arizona.



0990 561000

North Korea insists it will only talk to US

RICHARD LLOYD PARRY

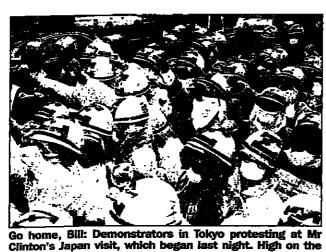
North Korea appeared last night to have rejected a US-South Korean proposal for four-nation talks aimed at bringing about a permanent peace on the peninsula.

Hours after the announcement of the joint initiative by the South Korean President, Kim Young Sam, and President Bill Clinton, the North Korean ambassador to Moscow said his government did not need any mediators, and that it was prepared to negotiate with the United States alone.

"At present other countries have no role to play in this area," Song Sung Pil was quoted as saying. "There is no need for an international conference on this question."

The proposal, for a conference involving China. the US. and the two Koreas, emerged from a summit on the South Korean island of Cheju, where Mr Clinton stopped en route to more talks in Japan and Russia.

Emphasising that "the es-tablishment of a stable, per-manent peace on the Korean Peninsula is the task of the Korean people", an announcement by the two presidents none the less called for a govemment-level meeting between



agenda will be security issues Mr Clinton rejected that op-

countries, "as soon as possible and without preconditions ... aimed at achieving a permanent peace agreement.

The Kim-Clinton summit had originally been intended as little more than a handshaking session, but was upgraded after an interlude 10 days ago when North Korean troops made three illegal incursions into the demilitarised zone which divides the peninsula.

Pyongyang has been pressing for a direct treaty with Washington to replace the military armistice which ended the Korean War of 1950-53, a prospect sistently rejected peace talks with the South. The last time they were floated was in 1994, but the idea fell through after the death of Kim Il Sung, North Korea's founding president.

Soon after, Pyongyang pro-voked a crisis when it refused to admit inspectors to an atomic-energy plant which was suspected of generating eapous-grade plutonium.

An international consortium formed to supply safe nuclear reactors to Pyongyang included South Korean officials but apart from these low-level technical contacts there has been no official dialogue between the two sides. Even before North Korea's rejection, South Korean and US officials were warning that the North was unlikely to leap at the proposal, which will doubtless be discussed on the Japanese and Russian legs of Mr Clinton's tour.

Last night he arrived in Tokyo for a two-day visit intended to address the troubled US-Japan Security Treaty, a key component of American de-fence policy in Asia. Since September, when a girl was raped by US troops on Okinawa, there have been demands in Japan for a cut in US bases. On Monday the US Defense Secretary, William Perry, unveiled a plan to reduce military facil-



Peaceful intentions: Bill Clinton and the South Korean president, Kim Young Sam, on their

IN BRIEF

Germany abandons personnel mines

Bonn — German armed forces will abandon the use of anti-personnel landmines and gradually abolish their stockpiles to set an example for other countries, officials said yesterday. Government sources said Defence Minister Volker Rühe hoped the move would lend momentum to a United Nations conference resuming next week that aims to curtail use of the weapons that indiscriminately kill or maim more than 25,000 people a year.

Plea to President

Nairobi — As internal rivairies plague Kenya's legal opposition parties, leaders of the Safina party, formed 10 months ago, urged President Daniel arap Moi to help legalise their group. There has been no official explanation why authorities have not registered Safina, whose interim secretary general is pale-ontologist Richard Leakey AP

Liberian clashes

Monrovia — Gangs of youths, some armed with grenade launchers, advanced towards barracks in the centre of the Liberian capital where ethnic Krahn militiamen are holed up. Machine-gun fire echoed around the Barclay Training Centre complex, where up to 20,000 are trapped.

'Tunnel gangsters'

Berlin - Six men known as the "tunnel gangsters" went on trial on charges of stealing 16.3m German marks (£7.3m) from a Commerzbank branch in Berlin on 27 June last year. The robbers escaped through an 80metre tunnel they had dug over the preceding 18 months. AP

Romanian elections

Bucharest - Romania's leftwing government yesterday set a 2 June date for nationwide local elections. Interest will focus on the capital where retired tennis star Ilie Nastase is standing for the ruling Party of Social Democracy (PDSR). Reuter

Airport shooting

Jakarta - Indonesia's military opened an investigation yesterday into the killing of 10 soldiers and five civilians by an army officer who ran amok at Timika airport in Irian Jaya, a military official said. Reuter

Israel remembers

Jerusalem — Israel came to a halt for two minutes to remember the six million Jews exterminated by the Nazis during

Gaddafi overtures cut no ice with White House

RUPERT CORNWELL Washington

The US seems mightily unimpressed by a new offer from the Libyan leader, Muammar Gaddafi, to permit interna-tional inspection of a suspected chemical-weapons plant near Tripoli, which Washington vows will never enter service, even if it has to use military force to prevent it doing so.

In a CNN interview marking the tenth anniversary of President Ronald Reagan's bombing of the Libyan capital, Col Gaddafi denied that the site, in-

side a hill at Tarhuna, 35 miles single out Tarhuna as a menace the capital, was being developed as a secret, well-nigh invulnerable site to manufacture chem-

ical and biological weapons.
The US had produced no concrete evidence to support its claims, he said. None the less, Libva was ready to permit international experts to examine the site, albeit under certain conditions which Col Gaddafi

would not specify.

But such equivocation will not satisfy Washington which, despite some scepticism from allies including Egypt and France, ry, Defense Secretary, that the US was prepared to attack the plant if necessary to prevent its completion. This is likely with-

in 12 to 18 months, according

Photograph: Reuters

tion yesterday but the meeting

raised the possibility of a four-way deal, involving all the main

It met with a cautious wel-come from Peking. "We have

taken notes of reports on the four-way talks," said Shen Guo-fang, a spokesman for the Chi-

nese Foreign Ministry, before

the North Korean statement.

hope peace and stability can be

maintained and that China will

a crumbling economy, and food

play a constructive role."

What I can stress is that we

Despite political uncertainty,

combatants in the war.

to intelligence estimates here. Although Pentagon officials say the US will first seek to halt the plant by diplomatic means, they leave no doubt that the military threat is real. Countering claims that, short of nuclear weapons, the Pentagon had no means of knocking out so well has gone to unusual lengths to protected a target, they point to

capable of piercing 100ft of soil or concrete 22ft thick.

Washington, moreover, has attacked Libya before, as the setting of the interview underlined. The Libyan leader spoke in the ruins of his house de-stroyed when F-111s bombed Tripoli on 16 April 1986, in reprisal for an attack at a Berlin nightclub which killed two US soldiers. Mr Reagan said the US had firm evidence of "direct" Libyan responsibility.

More details of Tarhuna emerged at a Pentagon briefing

ground-penetrating bombs like last week on chemical-weapons the 5,000lb GBU-28, said to be proliferation, including an artist's impression of the site based on satellite photos. It shows a partially excavated and terraced desert hillside, with roads leading to tunnels bored into the foot of the mountain.

Once complete, officials say, Tarhuna will be able to produce 110 tons of poison and nerve gases over three years, as much as at Rabta, a previous suspected Libyan chemicalweapons plant that was closed after a fire in 1990. "We have absolutely no doubt ... the new facility is intended to make chemical weapons," Patrick Hughes, head of the Defense Intelligence Agency, said. But domestic politics also play a part. Anxious to fend off

Republican criticism that he is neglecting defence, Mr Clinton wants to show his administration is responding to the new challenges of a post-Cold War world. above all to the threat posed by proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

Even so, Col Gaddafi spoke almost warmly of him in the interview, calling Mr Clinton "a man of peace", unlike his predecessors in the White House.



Gadaffi responds to questions on an alleged chemical facility in Libya during an interview with CNN News on Monday

in personal computing.

In Tax Arrears? There's still time to get your act together

So if you have any outstanding business with the Inland Revenue (like overdue tax forms or unpaid bilis) or are unsure of your tax position, now's the time to get it cleared up. After April you'll be under a new legal obligation to make a record of your income and expenses. You'll need to keep these records for about two years, or up to six years

The curtain goes up on April 6th 1996. That's when the

What records do you need to keep ...?

if you're self-employed.

first Self Assessment tax year begins.

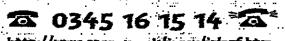
They include bank and building society statements, dividend vouchers, business earnings and receipts, and any other documents that could relate to your tax.

How to avoid penalties There will be a clear timetable setting out what you

have to do by when. Sending back your tax return and making payments on time will mean you avoid interest and penalties. Read the leaflet in your next tax return

find out more by reading the special leaflet we've included with your next tax return, which should arrive soon.

Alternatively, for free information guides, just send us the coupon or telephone our special number, anythms. (All calls are charged at the local rate.)



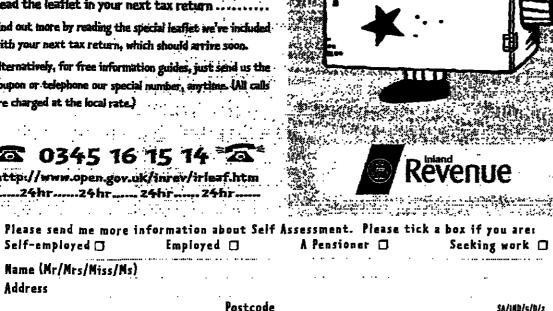
Self-employed []

Address

Name (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms)

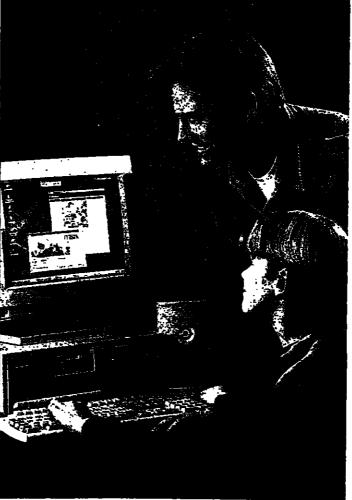
http://www.open.gov.uk/inrev/irleaf.htm ...24hr......24hr...... 24hr...... 24hr....

Employed []



Self Assessment-a clearer tax system

Setting the standards



Whatever sort of day you have, trust Viglen to make

A range of PCs with a unique combination of leading edge technology and tremendous value, every one of Viglen's products has built-in upgradeability for future developments and lifetime technical support -

your guarantee of peace of mind!

Little wonder that Vigten's products have won countless awards time and time again, or that Viglen is a leading supplier not only to businesses all over the UK but also government, public sector, education and

And because you're buying direct from a leading British manufacturer, you're also guaranteed unbeatable value for money, delivered right to your

See how Viglen can change your life, whether you use your PC for work or for play. nces for a Viglen Multimedia system with a 75MHz Pentium" Processor start from only £1199 (inc delivery+war) and go all the way up to £3299 (inc

delivery+wat) for a fully featured top of the range Gente PCI Multimedia PC with 166MHz Pentaum* Processor Call 0181 758 7090 to place your order or for your tree copy of the Viglen Direct Guide, and we guarantee you'll never look back.

THE VIGLEN HOME MUITIMEDIA PC
75MHz PENTIUM'
PROCESSOR
■ Viglen Contender Executive ES System
8M3 RAM
■ 540MB HD
14" SVGA Colour Monitor

Microsoft Mouse ■ Quad speed CD ROM Dime ■ PCI Graphics Card

■ Stereo Speakers & Microphone ■ Microsoft Windows: 95 ■ Six Software Titles as sho



1

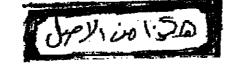






Vigien Limited. Vigien House, Alperton Lane, Alperton, Middlesex HAO 1DX

Name	Title	THE COUPON
Address		
Postcode	Telephone	
Please sund me more information on the Viglen range of personal computers		□ Business/Education use □ Home Personal use



Building Society customer?

Call the helplines below.



The better we get the bigger we get. Britain's No.1 private motor insurer. Three quarters of a million home insurance customers. The fastest growing mortgage lender in the country. A personal loan agreed every three minutes. The UK's most innovative savings plan. Call Direct Line, we're waiting to help you.

Motor Insurance

omputing

0181 686 2468

Home insurance

0181 686 8877

Mortgages 0181 649 9099 Personal Loans

0181 680 9966

Savings

0181 667 1121

CALLANYTIME 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 5pm Saturday, quoting ref: Cll

nce to cover the amount of the loan and security lest. Offers subject to status.

EOAN SECURED ON IT.

When the truth is too hard to bear

Robert Block in Johannesburg witnesses a nation struggling to come to terms with its grief

ROBERT BLOCK Johannesburg

ifi

ıa

Saı

√hi

he

At one point yesterday, when a man's humiliation and pain pain filled the East London City hall to bursting point, Archhishop Desmond Tutu, the chairman of South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission, simply laid his head on the table in front of him and began to weep uncontrollably.

When he finally stopped crying, he lifted his head, wiped his face and called a recess. It was the second day of commission hearings whose aim is to start a process of healing South Africa after the brutality of

and Reconciliation Commission's proceedings on Monday was marked by a swarm of international television cameras and witnesses' composure, then vesterday's hearings were notable for their surprising lack of media presence and for the tears that the testimonies of victims' mothers and wives gen-

Archbishop Tutu broke down at the testimony of Singqok-

wana Malgas, who served 14 years at the notorious Robben Island prison, where he was often tortured, Asked to detail the tortures, he said: "I was always there was the 'helicopter training - they put a broomstick under your knees and then...' The man's face contorted at the memory, and it was more than than the archbishop could bear.

He was not the only one to cry. Witnesses, onlookers, commission gophers and journalists all broke down at one time or mothers of apartheid activists laid bare their personal pain and loss to the world.

Sometimes the tears seemed If the first day of the Truth to be contagious. A witness would start to sob and then a member of the audience would begin to cry. Soon the tears would spread like a bush fire, until it seemed like almost everyone in the room was weeping, wiping their eyes or trying to push a lump back down their throat. One foreign observer was overheard to remark: "This country is so traumatised. If one person is hurt, then so is every-



A young spectator arrives at yesterday's hearing of South Africa's Truth and Reconcilation Commission Photograph: AFP

But reliving and relieving the pain of victims is what the Commission is all about. President Nelson Mandela's government of national unity set up the Truth Commission to reveal as much as possible of hitherhidden abuses during the apartheid era in the hope that by doing so, the nation will be able to heal its conscience.

The first witness to testify was Neediwe Mfeti. a cousin of Deputy President Thabo Mbe-ki, and the wife of Phindile Mfeti, a student at the University of Natal, who disappeared in 1987. She told the court how Phindile was placed under house arrest and then banned to the Transkei. She spoke of

her last conversation with him while he was at university: he had just bought a new pair of jeans that he was going to take to a tailor for alterations. That was the last she had heard from him. She described how, since his disappearance, she had desperately tried to fit together the pieces of the puzzle of her husband's disappearance.

When asked what she expected from the Commission, she replied that she wanted her husband's body. "Even if he was burned," she said in a whisper. "If only I could get a little bone or ashes that were his."

Toni Mazwai, 83, told the Commission that her son Siphiwe was killed in a 1988 shoot-

hour of music from a jazz legend on CD or cassette.

Each carefully chosen track has been digitally re-mastered

to let you hear the music as it was meant to be heard,

while the accompanying magazine looks at their life and

times, highlights key moments in the history of jazz and

puts their work in context, giving you an insight into

ith Jazz Greats you can lie back and relax

with some of the greatest jazz musicians of all time. Each fortnight it brings you an

out with police after he joined the armed wing of President Nelson Mandela's then-banned African National Congress, She cried as she explained that the police had kept the body for so long that it had begun decomposing and was beyond embalming when it was delivered

to the undertakers. Archbishop Tutu had to adjourn the hearings for 15 minutes to allow Nomonde Calata to compose herself. She had collapsed in her chair with a cry of anguish which hushed the packed assembly as she de-scribed the moment in 1985 when she first suspected her teacher husband, Fort Calata, had been killed by security

police. "Some friends came to my house to tell me I should not be alone at a time like this. I was only 20. I could not deal with it." Mrs Calata said before breaking into uncontrollable sob-

Speaking through a Xhosa in-terpreter, Mrs Calata said that when she viewed the body of her husband: "The dogs had bitten him very severely. I could not believe the dogs had already had their share.

Graeme Simpson, the director of the Centre of the Study of Violence and Reconciliation, said the the outpouring of emotion was a positive thing. "What we are starting to see is a process of catharsis."

KwaZulu inquiry to weigh fraud accusations

President Nelson Mandela and his Zulu rival, Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, yesterday agreed to form an all-party commission to investigate al-leged fraud ahead of next month's local elections in South Africa's most troubled province. writes Robert Block. The decision came amid accusations and countercharges of rigged voting rolls and political thug-

Mr Mandela's African National Congress says it has evi-dence of massive fraud ahead of the 29 May local elections in the province which is ruled by Chief Buthelezi's Inkatha Freedom Party. According to Mike Sutcliffe, a leading ANC member in the province, between 30 and 60 per cent of names on rolls throughout the province are fraudulent. The ANC wants

the polls postponed. But Chief Buthelezi, who is also a junior partner and Minister of Home Affairs in Mr Mandela's Government of National Unity, rejects charges that Inkatha is behind any fraud and has threatened to pull out of the government if the polls do not go ahead as planned.

With some polls suggesting there has been a shift in urban areas of the province away from the ANC and to Inkatha, the chief has the scent of political victory in his nostrils and does not want to risk a delay. Chief Buthelezi could use an electoral boost in his province to strengthen his hand in his disagreements with Mr Mandela over the question of provincial autonomy. But the charges of fraud and

the accusations by non-goverumental organisations that Inkatha has created vast "no-go areas in the countryside for people who do not support Inkatha are such that other parties have also recommended that the polls be postponed. The National Party of Deputy

President FW de Klerk recommended a special commission to look into the matter, and Mr Mandela has accepted the plan. "I have decided to appoint a committee of all parties at parliament," the President said after talks with Chief Buthelezi in Cape Town. "That committee will investigate the allegations and I will act on the basis of their recommendations."

Mr Mandela said irregularities to be investigated included the registration of more than 70 people at one address and registration of voters at vacant lots. Asked if it was possible the elections might be postponed. Mr Mandela said: "They [the committee] may say there must be a postponement. I will listen to their recommendation."

Chief Buthelezi said he welcomed the decision to appoint the committee, but made it clear that if the vote were put off his party could still decide to pull out of the government. According to one report yesterday, the situation is complicated because in many areas the

Spend an hour with **Billie Holiday** for just £1.99

المراقب المستعدد والمستعدد والمستعد والمستعدد والمستعد والمستعدد والمستعد والمستعدد والمستعد والمستعدد والمستعدد والمستعدد والمستعدد والمستعدد والمستعدد وال



In part one read Billie Holiday's harrowing tale of prostitution and drugs. Follow her path from poor servant to jazz siren as you listen to masterpieces like Strange Fruit and Summertime.

Featuring such masters as Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, Fats Waller, Ella Fitzgerald, spanning New Orleans Ragtime to beloop and latino, Jazz Greats builds into the ultimate collection of the world's jazz music.

"Their lives, their times, but most of all their music."



'Scum' charge levelled at Sydney murder suspect

ROBERT MILLIKEN

There was a tense moment in Australia's backpacker murder trial yesterday when a friend of two British women described the man accused of killing them and

Pauline Vuletich had just given evidence in the New South Wales Supreme Court about her friendship with Joanne Walters and Caroline Clarke, both 22, whose bodies were found in the Belanglo State Forest south of Sydney in September 1992, five months after they disappeared. Ms Walters had suffered multiple stab wounds and Ms Clarke had been shot 10 times

Ivan Milat, a 51-year-old road worker, has pleaded not guilty to charges of murdering the Britons, three Germans and two Australians. He has also denied a charge of kidnapping Paul Onions, another British

tourist, who identified Mr Milat in court three weeks ago as the man who abducted him and threatened him with a revolver on the road near the forest in January 1990.

As Mrs Vuletich left the witness box she walked past Mr Milat in the dock. She turned towards him and said "scum". He did not respond.

Mrs Vuletich told the jury of eight men and four women how she had met Ms Walters while travelling in Greece in 1990, before Mrs Vuletich married. They became friends and travelled to Australia together the following year. On the night of Good Friday 1992, Mrs Vuletich visited Ms Walters at her Sydney flat where Ms Walters and Ms Clarke told her of their plans to hitch-hike to Western Australia in search

fruit-picking jobs. "It was the last time I saw Joanne," Mrs Vuletich said. The two women disappeared after setting out from Sydney together the next day. Earlier, Gillian Walters.

Joanne's mother, was overcome with emotion and unable to give evidence. Choking back sobs as she entered the witness stand, Mrs Walters nodded as Mr Justice David Hunt, the trial judge, asked her if she would prefer to be excused.

Ray Walters, Joanne's father, said their daughter had left their home in south Wales for a travelling holiday with Mrs Vuletich (then Reid) in Australia in May 1991. "She rang us every two weeks from Australia." he said. "She wouldn't go anywhere or change addresses without letting us know." The telephone calls stopped on the Wednesday before Easter 1992.

Caroline Clarke's parents. Ian and Jacqueline Clarke, of Hexham, Northumberland also gave evidence yesterday about their last contact with their daughter. The trial continues.

See page - 2

section two

Wednesday

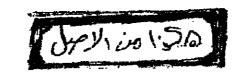
Madonna with child

Budapest — The American pop star Madonna, who once said she would advertise for a man to father her child, is pregnant with her first baby and is "deliriously happy", her publicist, Liz Rosenberg, said yesterday.
The father is her personal physical trainer, Carlos Leon (pictured with Madonna) whom the 37-year-old met in New York.

Madonna is currently in Budapest, filming the screen version of *Evita*. Ms Rosenberg said Leon was a professional bicyclist who had become Madonna's personal trainer, adding "He also does a little acting and



A philosophy that reflects concern for the future etery-one and the control of the con re-cycled annually beautising followthe contradiction distribution For more information call us free on 0500 246 246. If anyone can Canon can



the little village of Bselim. Just past the local monastery, the French and Swedish packing cases for the millions of dollars of new transformers still lie next to the smouldering wreckage of the power-station that had just been restored with foreign aid after its civil war damage. Bselim was a symbol of Lebanon's rebirth.

Until four Israeli F-16 fighter-hombers dived on it and in less than three minutes destroyed £13m of equipment and cut Lebanon's power supply by up to a third for the next 18 months by firing 20 US-made laser-guided missiles into the plant. The great 150-kilowatt transformers were still burning yesterday as Mohib Itani, the director of Lebanon's generating board, the Electricité du Liban, walked with anger through the ruins.

"This is an act of sabotage," he said. "The Israelis want to bomb Lebanon back to the dark ages. No Hizbollah man has ever been here."

Mr Itani is right. Bselim lies in the Christian heartland of Lebanon, among a community

rael's infrastructure "damage" consisted of a broken power line to a single house in Galilee.

But the destruction of Bselim and the neighbouring sub-station at Jamhour has emasculated Lebanon's power supply. Mr Itani estimates total destruction, along with the bombing of electrical switching systems in the south and a third station in the Bekaa, as close to

"Do you really think this was done because the Hizbollah have been firing Katyushas [rockets]?" he asked, picking up a twisted piece of American missile fusclage as the burning silicone oil licked at the incinerated transformers. Each of them was installed to convert the 150 kilovolt lines from Lebanon's two power stations at Zoukh and Jive into 66 kilovolt transmission to sub-stations across the country.

Two US-made missiles failed to explode and buried themselves instead deep in the earth and concrete around the

"This was done to attack



the moment of our rebirth," Mr

wounded by shrapnel as the rockets exploded, devastating the home of the local plant diof the very few to realise how the Israelis knew what to hit. "In their 1982 invasion of Lebanon, their soldiers broke through the gate and stole all

tems," he said, "At the time, we didn't understand why they would ever want to take them away from us.

Whether French foreign minister, Herve de Charette, dis-

Britain's Jews

voice 'concern'

with the Israeli Prime Minister. Shimon Peres in Jerusalem vesterday is unknown. He certainly should have done; because Bselim had been newly restored with the help of a £5m aid pack-

In 1944 a V1 flying bomb landed in the garden of my parents' home in St John's Wood, destroying the back of the house. My mother and father were both out and the only casualty was the cat, which had all its fur blown off. As a child, I was fascinated by an inlaid mosaic table which survived but with a line scoured where the blast had ripped out tiles.

thought of the St John's Wood house last Friday as Bibi Netanyahu, leader of the rightwing Likud party, told a CNN interviewer that the effect of Katyusha rockets on Kiryat Shmona, this northern Israeli town, was much the same as that of V1 flying bombs and V2 rock-

ets falling on London. Watching Israelis on international television on the day Mr Netanyahu spoke, it would be just possible to believe he was drawing a fair parallel. In the morning a Katyusha exploded in Kiryat Shmona beside a car, whose petrol tank exploded. badly burning Hanni Himi, wife of the deputy mayor. CNN showed the car blazing. With-in hours Israel retaliated with artillery fire and bombing which has since forced 400,000

Lebanese to flee their homes. But there is no comparison between the scale of the casualties and destruction on the two sides of the border. Yesterday the Israeli army said Hizbollah, the Lebanese guerrilla move-ment, had fired 120 Katyushas since Operation Grapes of Wrath began on Thursday. So far, Mrs Himi is the only serious casualty; six or seven people have been lightly wounded. Higher figures given by some news agencies for the number injured include 30 people suf-

Obviously it is more dangerous this week to be in Kiryat than in Tel Aviv or Jerusalem. lah rockets in six days, Israeli guns have been firing more than 3,000 heavy rounds in a 24hour period, according to UN officers. In addition, the air force has launched more than 200 bomber or missile raids every day. In this way Mr Netanyahu's comparison between Katyushas and the V weapons

fering from shock.

wholly misleading. It is difficult for journalists to avoid giving the impression that the military operations by both sides, and the suffering they cause, is comparable. I was in Metulia, a pretty hilltop town

on the Israeli-Lebanese border, Kiryat Shmona. We drove first to where a Katyusha had landed near a tree, blowing off branches and peppering houses with shrapnel.

non,

gree-

pos-litire

here

The first person we met, Yitzhak Michaely, said: "I can't believe my luck." He took us to his apartment and pointed to a sofa. He reading a book and drinking coffee when a Katyusha exploded in the distance. He left his seat and a second rocket exploded on the other side of the road, sending a piece of metal through the window which hit the wall where his head had just been.

The first Katyusha Mr Michaely heard was the one which set fire to Mrs Himi's car. She was very unlucky: the rocket hit the road as she drove past the explosion digging a shallow hole in the tarmac about 12in across. The car was so badly burned you could not tell its original colour and the tyres had melted. I talked to a man who had helped Mrs Himi out of the car. He said at first he could not get the door of the car open and she was already on fire.

Driving back to my hotel in Metulia I intended to write a story solely about Mrs Himi and Mr Michaely. He was badly frightened and she had suffered terrible injuries. But I had misgivings, not about reporting what had happened to them. but of giving the impression that it was a typical event and that Kiryat Shmona was being pounded by rocket fire.

In the event, the news of the attack was overtaken by the arrival of Shimon Peres, the Israeli Prime Minister, and General Amnon Shahak, army chief of staff, at a nearby army base to confirm that Israel was going to retaliate by ordering people to leave 41 villages in Lebanon if they did not want to be artillery and air strikes.

Exaggeration of the extent of Israel creates its own political northern Galilee: they get their idea of the Katyusha attacks from Israeli television and the

Mr Peres has promised to stop the rockets, but he cannot deliver on this pledge unless the US persuades Syria to curb Hizbollah. The Katyushas are too small and mobile to be successfully eliminated by artillery and air strikes alone. If diplomacy fails, the only alternative will be a ground offensive.

. ""

Diplomats fear lengthy campaign will work in guerrillas' favour

RUPERT CORNWELL Washington and MARY DEJEVSKY

Intense US efforts to halt Israel's pounding of Hizbollah in southern Lebanon reflect a growing fear in Washington that continuation of the offenfor the guerrilla movement in the Arab world and set back the faltering peace process even fur-

Although he is accompanying President Clinton on his current visit to Japan, Secretary of State Warren Christopher is personally directing the diplomatic drive to secure a ceasefire, built on an end to Hizbollah rocket attacks onnorthern Israel and disarming the guerrillas, in return for a commitment by Israel to withdraw from its security zone in

In essence, the plan is an enlarged version of an under- south Lebanon, despite being

ith child

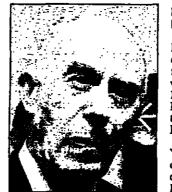
standing also brokered by Washington, which ended a similar Israeli onslaught against Hizbollah positions in July 1993. But calls are increasing for Prime Minister Shimon Peres to call a halt unilaterally.

Recognising that the offensive is "smart politics" for Mr Peres, ahead of this spring's yesterday nonetheless insisted that "having made his point, he needs to bring the offensive to an end". Israel had every right to defend itself from terrorist threats, said the paper, a staunch supporter of the Jewish state. "But continuing the retaliatory raids much longer can only reinforce Hizbollah's mes-

sage to Lebanese civilians." France has also pressed for an end to the Israeli attacks, but has had little success. The French foreign minister, Hervé de Charette, pressed on yes-terday with his lone diplomatic mission to restore peace to given the brush-off by Mr Peres the previous evening.

After what was acknowla failed meeting with the Israeli Prime Minister, the usefulness of his visits to Syria and Lebanon, and his telephone calls to Tehran, must be questionable. Diplomatic moves by the US could leave France more visibly sidelined than it was even after the US became involved in Bosnia and brokered the Dayton peace accords.

The French Prime Minister, Alain Juppe, who has just returned from a five-day tour of the French Caribbean, issued a sharp reprimand to Israel, but stressed also the legitimacy of its security concerns. Mr Juppé's careful double emphasis appeared designed to move France closer to the stance of its EU partners over the conflict. Until Mr Juppé returned from the Caribbean, the French response centred on its unique contacts in the region and the



Hervé de Charette: Shuttle diplomacy has so far failed unique contribution it could

make to restoring peace.

This has added to an pression of a lack of coordination, if not actual fracturing, in the organisation of French foreign policy between the foreign ministry, the prime minister's office and the Elysée, where Jacques Chirac has pressed a more activist stance.

MICHAEL STREETER and DANIEL ROSEMAN

Leaders of Britain's Jewish community have met with antiterrorist squad officers this week following a threat by Hizbollah, the Iranian-backed Muslim guerrilla group, to extend its activities beyond the

The meeting at Scotland Yard, part of a regular dialogue, discussed the extra threat caused by current events in Lebanon and northern Israel. The interception last week by Belgian police of an Iranian freighter carrying explosives which it was claimed were destined for Munich has also

ish diaspora faces fresh attacks. Michael Whine, spokesman for the Board of Deputies of British Jews, said that over the past few days the BBC moni-toring service had recorded short-wave broadcasts from Hizbollah threatening to extend

heightened fears that the Jew-

their campaign to Jewish and Israeli targets outside the Middle East. "Clearly this is of concern to us," said Mr Whine. "When groups like Hizbollah or Hamas make threats they invariably carry them out ... They keep their

Mr Whine said the threats from Hizbollah - and also seriously. The British community is not expected to take any extra measures, however. Security has been high since the bombing of the Israeli Em-

bassy in London in July 1994.
The Community Security Organisation, run by the Jewish community nationally, sends out briefings to Synagogues on anti-semitic attacks and groups, and the Board of Deputies acts on any intelligence reports from Scotland Yard. Many synagogues have installed closed circuit TV cameras, trained volunteers in security and surveillance techniques, and meet regularly with local police.

In todays legal section, a frank and in depth look at legal salaries in the South East of England: in conjunction with **Casey Associates**

> See page - 25 section two

To book your advertisement Ashley Horobin -11-10171 293 207.

Every Wednesday in the

THE INDEPENDENT

section two



Save money on your home insurance and spend a little extra on your home.



WANTED Call now to invest up to £6,000 tax-free No salesmen. No commission. No hassle. Virgin Direct PEPs. Straight down the line. 0345 95 95 95 rgin Direct Personal Financial Service Ltd is regulated by the Personal Inv

he

international

France is urged to restrict migrants

MARY DEJEVSKY

A French parliamentary commission has recommended wide-ranging measures to tighten the country's immigration laws and reduce what its chairman called the "temptations" of France as a place of refuge. The measures would include restrictions on the right to free health care and education, compulsory finger-printing of visa applicants from particular countries, and an extension of the time that suspected illegal immigrants can be detained while their right to remain is verified.

Introducing the report yesterday, the commission's chairman, centre-right MP Jean-Pierre Philibert, said illegal immigrants in France could number anything between 250,000 and 600,000 (though some say it is lower) and constituted a drain on the country's economy, particularly on its health care budget. The recommendation is that people without residence papers should in future qualify only for emergency health-care and treatment for contagious diseases. He conjured up a picture of illegal immigrants basking in a profusion of free medical treatments courtesy of the French taxpaver.

Tougher sanctions would also be introduced for those found to be employing illegal aliens, including the removal of a legal residence permit from all those involved that would open the way to deportation. Only parents - not uncles and siblings - would be able to register children for a school place, and under-age delinquents could find themselves deported into the care of their home

country's social services. The report was met with furious objections from the political left - the four Socialist members of the commission migrant support groups, and mild approval from the farright National Front, which said the recommendations were "on the right track" but did not go

far enough.

A number of the recommendations, however, appeared to embarrass even sections of the mainstream political right. The chairman of the parliamentary legislative affairs committee, Pierre Mazeaud warned that he could not subscribe to all the proposals and care would have to be taken to ensure the constitutional rights were not violated. These include the rights to education, health and family life. All these caveats mean the report's recommendations will probably not become law in their current form.

They do, however, serve a political purpose, which is to convince the French public that the government is serious about combating illegal immigration. The silence on the issue of immigration from mainstream candidates was widely seen as a reason why the National Front took a record 15.15 per cent of the vote in the presidential election and took control of three city councils in the municipal elections that followed.

The tough stance taken by the French interior ministry since Mr Chirac's election, which has included security checks introduced in the wake of last summer's terrorist bombings and applied largely to people of north African appearance, has led some critics to say that the government is doing the National Front's job for it.

A report for the UN Human Rights Commission published in Geneva last week spoke of a wave of xenophobia and racism" sweeping France that was "highly prejudicial" to its claim to be the "homeland of



Steam driven: Chinese cyclists emerge from a man-made fog on a Pelding cycle lane yesterday as workmen mending underground pipes, used to heat apartment buildings, released bolling water on to the street Photograph: Greg Baker/AF

China tries to halt march of Aids

realistic.

TERESA POOLE

China's south-western province of Yunnan will set up Aids quarantine checkpoints along its borders with South-East Asia in an attempt to stop the increase of HIV infection in the worst afflicted part of the country.

However, the idea of a disease-prevention belt along its borders with Vietnam, Laos and Burma appears to be a throw-back to Peking's much-criticised view that Aids is a foreign evil rather than a problem which China must address as a domestic issue.

There are about 2,500 official cases of HIV infection in China, but many experts believe the real number is nearer 100,000. Yunnan province, which has a serious heroin-addiction and drug-trafficking problem because of its proximity to the Golden Triangle opium-growing countries, accounts for more

cial number.

Yesterday, it was announced that the Yunnan provincial government would spend about 500m yuan (£40m) to set up infectious-disease checkpoints and protection belts at six crossing points along the 2,500-mile

The province would also improve grassroots prevention programmes to control diseases including Aids, cholera and leprosy, said Yang Chaobin, of the provincial health department.

There were no details as to how the checkpoints would work, and the booming border trade across these very porous borders will present a considerable challenge to the plan. Nor is it clear what the checkpoints will actually check. Yunnan's border towns do not have the resources for large-scale testing, and any requirement that travellers carry Aids-test

than three-quarters of the offi- certificates would seem both impractical and vulnerable to forgeries. Given the ease with which people manage to smuggle drugs into Yunnan, the idea of policing the whole border is un-

> China has traditionally viewed Aids as a "foreign problem". Even now, any föreigner who wants to live in China must first present a very recent Aids test certificate. Chinese returning from living abroad must similarly be tested.

It is only over the past year that Chinese authorities have started to be more open about the need for Aids education and public-health measures, and to treat Aids as a potential Chinese problem. The country's first national Aids education and publicity campaign was launched only last November, on World Aids Day. Along with the economic boom of the past decade, China has also experienced a surge in the number of arms of prostitutes.

drug addicts, fuelling what in other Asian countries has been the first wave of HIV infection.

While most Chinese people tend to be extremely reticent when talking about sex, the past 10 years has also seen a boom in prostitution, especially in the cities and fast-growing coastal areas. This has been true at all levels of society.

China's strict family-planning rules mean that many women rely on IUDs for contraception, and condoms are not popular with Chinese men, further increasing the possibility of HIV infection.

China's vast floating population of 90 million also adds to the problem in organising Aids education.

Every year millions of farmers leave behind their wives and children and head for the construction sites of China's cities, out of the clutches of the authorities, and often into the

Silence from Russia over 'secret' base

PHIL REEVES Moscow

Government officials in Moscow were yesterday maintaining a stony silence over a report that Russia is building a huge underground military complex in the Ural moun-

According to yesterday's New York Times, the structure is hidden inside the Yamantau mountain in the southern Urals and is served by a railroad and a major road, and employs thousands of workers.

The newspaper, quoting unnamed Western and Russian sources, says the project, which has reportedly been spotted by US satellites, has mystified American experts, who believe it may be anything from a secret weapons plant to an underground command post, for use in the event of nuclear war.

Although the US has apparently been aware of the site for some years, the issue has surfaced publicly at an awkward time for President Clinton, who will arrive in Moscow on Friday for a G7 summit on nuclear safety and related issues. His administration is spending hundreds of millions of dollars helping Russia dismantle thousands of unwanted nuclear weapons in the aftermath of the

Cold War. He has also personally made little effort to disguise his sup-

port for Mr Yeltsin's efforts to be re-elected as president. against a strong Communist challenge. But, to win approval in Congress for financing Russ ian nuclear disarmament, his administration has had to convince congressmen that the Russians - who are desperate-ly short of funds - are not undertaking new military projects, apart from defensive ones.

Yesterday, Russia's Ministry of Defence and Foreign Ministry refused to comment on the project, or its purpose. A Defence Ministry spokesman shrugged off inquiries: "We haven't read the paper yet, so

we have no reaction. The New York Times said, according to some Russian officials, the project began during the Brezhnev era. But, despite being strapped for cash - millions of workers have suffered late wages - the Russian government had evidently decided to continue with the work, a decision which underscores the influence that the military still wields within the Kremlin.

Such is the size of the project that it has been the subject of several reports in the Russian local media, including those in Beloretsk, not far from site. These reveal that worried locals have been told by officials that the project is, variously, a store for state treasures, a mine, a food depot, a dump for nuclear waste, and a nuclear bunker.

Man held over mass killings in Ukraine

After a hunt in which national guards were called in, police in Ukraine believe they have caught a man who killed 40 people, including eight families. Officials said the suspect, an

unemployed 37-year-old former forestry student identified only as "Citizen O", confessed to a rampage through the former Soviet republic in which victims were shot and their homes burnt. In a string of normally

communities, he broke into homes, wiping out men, women and children as they slept. Troops were called in to assist with the search. The terror began on 30 December, when he killed a family of four and a passer-by thought to have seen

him escaping. Ukraine's First Deputy Interior Minister said the suspect, "psychologically normal", had confessed to 10 other killings since 1989, committed before his latest rampage.

INTRODUCING STEPDOWN. THE REVOLUTIONARY NEW CREDIT CARD WITH THE INCREDIBLE SHRINKING INTEREST RATE.



If you're regularly paying interest on outstanding balances, the Stepdown Card could save you money and increase your spending power. It offers:

- A low interest rate only 18.9% APR* for purchases (compared with 22.3% APR for a Bardays Standard Visa Card, and 23.4% APR for a NatWest Standard Access Card).
- Stepdown with this revolutionary new feature. our rate is cut by 0.5% every six months till it has shrunk to only 15.4%.

That's our reward to you for loyalty to us. All you have to do is spend an average of £200 a month or have an average statement balance of over £1,000 a month, and keep to the terms of your Card Agreement.

- No Annual Fee.
- Special Welcome Offer pay off any existing balances at only 12.9% APR, fixed for 6 months after opening your account^T.



*Rates quoted may vary.

Call free now or send the coupon for information on cutting your charges. If you call we can take your application directly.

0800 399 399

Send to The Stepdown Card, Freepost, PO Box 3606, Birmingham 81 2XX

Is your mortgage better protected than your family?

your life assurance will take care of the mortgage.

But can you say the same for your family? Who will pay the bills for those you love the most if you're not there?

Fortunately, there is an economical way to ensure that your family is properly protected especially during the years when new clothes, holidays and even the weekly shopping can put a heavy burden on your income.

Allied Dunbar's straightforward term assurance can provide a substantial sum to your dependants should you die within the period insured, at a price that's real value. Depending on your pension arrangements you may be able to obtain tax relief, which means your monthly contributions could work out no as little as a few pence per day."

Call now for a personal quote on 0800 888 666 relief on those contributions - meaning you can get even more protection for your money.

And applying is simple; we can take most of your details over the phone. Call us now for more information and a personal quote and we'll send you a free Allied Dunbar ballpoint pen. Alternatively, if you visit us on the Internet at http://www.allieddunbar.co.uk, you can obtain your quote, plus some free information on Will Writing, from our site. Either way, you'll discover exactly how little it costs to make your family as safe as houses. And when you purchase your plan, you

may also qualify for a free luxury travel wallet.

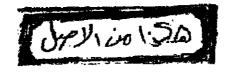
E5F

NO-NOMSEN



For the life you don't yet know





ence from Issia over Cret' base

reld over mass

es in Ukraine

The Daihatsu Fourtrak.
Rated No.1 4x4 in the BBC Top Gear
1996 Customer Satisfaction Survey.

NO-NONSENSE VEHICLES FROM JAPAN.

THE REPORT OF THE PARTY OF THE

The Daihatsu Fourtrak range starts at £14,497 on the road. For more information phone 0800 521700, or post to Daihatsu Information Services, FREEPOST 506, Sandwich, Kent CT13 9BR.

NAME_______ADDRES

TICK IF UNDER 18 CURRENT VEHICLE

PRICE CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS INCLUDES VAT, DELIVERY, NUMBER PLATES (AT 1425 INC., VAT) AND SIX MONTHS' ROAD FUND LICENSE AT 577

e ise out
u this
withnon,
e go
yeeng at
will
pos-

rig at will rosposlifire two ers eace arily who ifulvere Eunost n isians

9

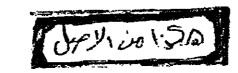
ign tterd at the Videry says the icures of the year of the contract of the con

"With all the suspension and safety improvements underway, you know what the new Rover 800 Series could do with now?" we asked our designers. "A new interior. Adding more burr walnut to the doors and consoles would be a start. Make the carpets even thicker cut pile while you're about it. That way drivers will feel more at home at the wheel. Speaking of which, that's where you could mount the hi-fi controls for extra convenience. Leather would be good there, too. Maybe even around the gearstick and handbrake. And how about colour coordinating the new carpet and mats range with the piping on our luxury seats? It might just be the perfect finishing touch."

Who says there's no place like home?

To fully appreciate the new decor, call us for a test drive on 0345 186 186.





I t was Sir Richard Scott who summed it up. For more than two years Sir Richard was painted by the Conservative establishment as a near revolutionary, not One of Us, an outsider. Yet soon after he delivered his report on arms exports to Iraq Sir Richard, the epitome of the independent judiciary so disliked by the Government, revealed the other side of

A press photographer caught him dressed to the nines in hunting garb on the back of an tences that appear inappropriate or make Irish mare about to go fox-hunting. The Tom remarks that reveal what appears to be deep-Paine of the High Court

The social

background of the

judiciary does

matter -- holders of

power ought to

match society

was suddenly exposed as a rich man spending his leisure as such folk do. Last summer there was a fuss after the discovery that judges hearing cases at Lewes Court were put up in a mansion nestling in the Downs at

DM: 186

leiscombe. The jud were bemused. Opulent: stone manor houses are... after all, where many of

High court judges earn £103,000 a year plus perks. The upper ranks of the judiciary, from High Court judges up to Lords of Appeal, are all white and (bar eight) male. Four out of five were educated at Oxbridge. A guestimate is that nearly nine out of 10 attended a public school; if not, they went to a direct grant or

good grammar. Judges are not, in the words of the judicial oath, "all manner of people". Officially, that makes no difference. The Lord Chancellor's Department gave evidence to the House of Commons home affairs committee in February: "Whatever their social background, almost all candidates in the course of lengthy experience in legal practice will have become familiar with social conditions and behaviour in many and diverse situations."

There is a case for toff judges: they will have the confidence to beard their social equals. Simon Lee, author of *Judging Judges* makes the For judges this has become a more pressing point diplomatically. "Perhaps aloof judges are more likely to take a counter-majoritarian position. Unrepresentativeness docsn't preclude understanding or a commitment to rationality."

The problem is that their rationality is called into question when they hand down sen-

seated ignorance of everyday life. Then the argument is that they would make better decisions if they were more representative.

Both the Lord Chancellor. who now advertises to recruit some judges, and the Bar Council, representing the barristers from whose ranks all senior appointments are made, want things to change.
The compulsory vocational

course for intending barristers formerly offered only in the Inns of Court in London is now available elsewhere. The Bar Council this week publishes a new equality code. A clearing system operates for entry into barristers' chambers which, in principle ought to make it easier for those with-

out connections to make it in the law. It's not quite a legal revolution. Of 8,390 practising barristers 282 are self-identified as black. There are 61 women QCs, up from only 50 two years ago. (There are 957 male QCs, up from 845 two years ago.) The pool from which future judges will come is broader but only by

There are good reasons why the social background of the judiciary matters. One is that holders of power and authority ought roughly to match society at large in their composition;

question as their role has become more politically controversial; they are doing things that require them to be more representative. This was what the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Taylor of Gosforth, was getting at when he said that if the judges are going to get into public debates through the media they need to be more in touch. The implication, given Lord Taylor's own only slightly non-standard background. The bench, experts say, is unquestionably

(Newcastle upon Tyne Royal Grammar School, Pembroke College, Cambridge). could be that how representative judges need to be more like the rest of us.

There is a groundswell of opinion in favour of judges reviewing more government decisions by government ministers. It is because judges are being drawn on to this

political terrain that Lord Taylor has given given his colleagues the green light to hold press conferences and make pub-

lic speeches.

The judges' repeated clashes with government and Michael Howard, the Home Secrement and Michael Howard, the darlings tary, in particular, have made them the darlings of the political left. The bible for the left used to be John Griffiths' The Politics of the Judiciary, which linked a series of anti-Labour court decisions in the Seventies with the socially restricted background of judges in the the higher courts.

The left's problem is that judges are still toffs but are now knocking down Tory government decisions. That show of independence seems to support Lee's argument that their background makes them beholden to no one.

There may be a fallacy in the argument that a bench with more women and more comprehensive school-educated judges will, as a result, be more "liberal".

"Look at working-class magistrates, they tend to be authoritarian," says the David Downs of the London School of Economics. "Black magistrates are harder on black defendants.

Unrepresentative as they are, judges have been changing their courtroom body language.

more modern and more open, even if its occupants still live in country houses. Sir Harry Woolf, Sir Stephen Sedley, Lord Browne-Wilkinson are widely regarded inside and outside the courts as class acts.

'A judge's background matjudicial activism, with they do undermines ters far less than their skills in judicial reasoning," according to Professor Geoffrey Jowell of University College, London. "What is different is, for example, the degree of interaction that there now is between Eng-

lish judges and the jurisprudence of other countries. They are in touch." Consensus says that judges are doing what they do better than ever. The problem is that

what they are starting to do is different, as it has to do with politics and decisions that in the past were reserved for those elected to public

"The issue is, how appropriate it is for judges to exercise political power," says Conor Gearty, reader in law at King's College, London. "But the solution to that problem is not to ensure there is a woman, a Catholic, a Sikh or a black person on the bench. It does not matter how representative judges are if what they do undermines the democratic

So you want to be a judge ...

David Walker reports

Age: You would be wise to have a few grey hairs before trying to cover them with a long curly wig. The average age of Heads of Divisions is 63: Crown Court judges are more than 57 years old

Race: Those from ethnic minorities shouldn't hold their breath. All 96 High Court judges are white. Out of 524 Crown Court judges, there are three Asians, two other non-whites and no blacks. It's a wonder the Commission for Racial Equality doesn't look into the judiciary.

Gender: If you're a woman, you could always hope. But it is largely a boys' club. There are no women among 12 Lords of Appeal in Ordinary and five Heads of Division. One woman figures among 32 Lord Justices of Appeal. There are seven women out of 96 High Court judges and 29 women among 524 Crown Court judges.

Education: Non-Oxbridge? Fear not. The breeze of change is gently blowing here. Half the Crown Court judges have non-Oxbridge backgrounds. On the other hand, the High Court judiciary is nearly 80 per cent Oxbridge. Make Lord Mackay your role model; he was 100 per cent non-Oxbridge - for his first degree, at least.

Pay: This may come as a shock, especially if you were previously a high-flying solicitor or barrister. Brace yourself as your salary topples to £75,978. for Crown Court duties. Become a senior circuit judge and it rises to £88,266. You can afford to loosen your belt a little as a High Court judge (£103,425). The best you can hope for (as Lord Chancellor) is £132,906 and the grateful respect of the nation.

Perks: Don't expect enormous bonuses or share options. But do expect a justice's clerk (secretary), a lovely big black car and driver to take you to the court, about five months' break each year, the security of knowing that no judge has ever been sacked, a reasonable pension, and the chance of a gong on retirement. If you are doing your judging away from home, you can also look forward to being put up in one of the luxurious judges' lodgings dotted around the country. Lord Mackay has his eye on spending these days, but in 1994 the taxpayer spent £3,303 per judge per week on lodging costs.

Ben Summers and Ramola Talwar

Biographer tells all' shock

Just why did Carol Thatcher write the biography of her father? Easy, confided Lord Deedes at yesterday's Foyles literary hinch, which he chaired to honour Miss T "My theory", he said, "is that Carol wrote the book because she felt her father ought not to be known only by the Dear Bill letters in *Private Eye*." Not an unreasonable assumption.

And as the eponymous recipient of the correspondence, he should know. Unfortunately, in



the next two hours I watched Miss T and her father destroy his theory. One hundred or so of the Home Counties' best blue rinse had gathered at the Grosvenor House Hotel to learn who the man behind the

gin-soaked buffer of the 19th hole really is. His daugher rose in a post-lunch flush to tell all - and when she sat down, we

were not one jot the wiser. "Denis and gin go together like Imelda Marcos and shoes," she declared. "In fact, when he was in Marseilles during the war, he had a go at making the stuff. He mixed it up in the bath, and a mouthful nearly blew his head off! That was easily solved - he turned on the taps and watered it down. You've never watered a drink down since, have you, Dad? Ha-ha-ha."

Carol's abiding memory of Denis in Number 10, we learned, was of him "pouring strong ones for anyone who needed it", and in moments of crisis his voice would boom along the corridors of power: "Let's get relaxed!"

Denis, true to form, sat through this portrait of a benign and befuddled chap, smiling and sipping – and saying not a word. Precisely, in fact, the Denis of Dear Bill letters. Not that the blue rinse brigade seemed to mind especially
the ladies who after seeing Denis
Thatcher and Lord Deedes asked me

Judge a book by...

I fear I must add to the embarrassment of the women-only Orange Prize for fic-tion after two of the judges, the reviewer Val Hennessy and the novelist Susan Hill, were widely quoted as damning the general standard of entries. Ms Hennessy said: "I have seldom come across so many books that were so bad. Some were just drivel." Ms Hill added: "I have to be a bit careful, but I think I can say I thought the quality of entries was abysmal, terrible." The prize's administrator, Kate Mosse, sees male conspiracy in this. The male journalist who wrote the original piece left out everything positive, she complained yesterday I asked the said male journalist

whether he was a sexist pig, whether he

was one of those who thought it odd and

patronising to instigate the prize in a ear when women had won both the Booker and the Whitbread. Far from it. "I am not against the prize at all," he told me. "I didn't even ask the two judges whether they thought the general standard was poor. They both came straight out and told me. I was amazed."

It is interesting that both Ms Hennessy and Ms Hill, with exactly the same phrase. regretted "that trees had to be cut down" for some books. Almost as if it was the very phrase used at the judges' meeting.

Presidential seat

A week is a long time in casy-to-assemble furniture. An unlikely confrontation



represents who need the occasional prompt

Semething seems to have gone away with the publicity material for the opening of the himerya. Theatre season at Chichester next month. The opening phodustical will be the world premiere of Simply Disconnected by Simon Gray. The producer will be Duncan Weldon. The leaflets mention that back of ventagent, Otherwise Engaged, but unusually, there is no members at of his last theatrical onting, which also had Weldon as produced at his his theatrical onting, which also had Weldon as produced at his his written out of theatrical history? Just so Chichester Parameter to the proof with Gray's couvre, I can remind them what the rinble to material forgot: has last work was Cell Mates, stairing Stephen Fry about though not alast for very long. taking place in Paris, on the subject of an advertising campaign by the Swedish furniture store Ikea. To advertise the opening of a new store to the east of Paris - it already had stores to the north, west and south - Ikea used a big photograph of Mikhail Gorbachev, accompanied by the words: "Everything is changing quickly in the east" and the date of the new store's opening. A further poster, also with Gorbachev's photograph, says: "In the east everything is now just the same as in the west."

It does not matter

judges are if what

the democratic

process

After approaches from the Russian embassy, Ikea has had to issue a disclaimer, stressing that the posters were not construed in any way as part of the Russian presidential election campaign, in which Mr Gorbachev will be a candidate.

Down Mexico way

Why was Sir James Goldsmith given a happy 20-minute slot on Breakfast with Frost on Sunday? Could it be anything to do with the fact that David Frost had spent the Easter break chez Goldsmith at his Xanadu-style mansion in Mexico?

Money for old coke

I'm pleased to see that the EastEnders actress Daniella Westbrook has rectified the appalling tabloid slur that she spent £100,000 on cocaine. The 22-

year-old who plays Sam, a barmaid, tells the May edition of Loaded magazine: "It was my money and not even the £100,000 that was reported, it was closer to £50,000 ... The most I ever spent in an evening was £600.7 That's a relief. For a moment there I thought the publicly funded BBC might be overpaying its soap opera starlets.



Now homeowners can borrow up to £15,000 by phone and receive a cheque in days

Now there is a simple, straightforward way to borrow up to £15,000, whether it be to improve your home or make a dream come true. With the new Alliance & Leicester Homeowners Loan there are no administration costs or survey fees and with our attractive low interest rates this really is the affordable way to borrow a larger sum. Moreover there are no interviews and you can normally have an 'in principle' decision over the phone in minutes. Phone us today!

Borrow from £5,000 - £15,000 and REPAY OVER 5 - 10 YEARS. INTEREST RATE FROM 11.750/Q APR (VARIABLE)

AMOUNT	APR %	120 MONTHS	96 MONTHS	60 MONTHS
£15,000	11,75	207.99	236,93	327.34
£13,000	11.75	180.26	205.34	283.70
£11,000	12,25	155.36	176.44	242.54
£9,000	12.25	127.11	144.36	198.44
£7,000	12.75	100.67	114.00	155.93
£5,000	12,75	71.91	81.43	111.38

Fysical example: If you borrow £12,000 over 60 months you pay £3,712.20 interest, giving a total amount payable of £15,712.20 and a monthly payment of £261.87 (at 11.75% APR variable).



One simple phone call is normally all you need for a fast decision



YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT. We regret this often is currently not available in Scotland and Northern Ireland. Your home is recurred to the norm Loans are subject to status and are only available to people aged 16 or over. Written quotations available to regres. The right to occlure any applicant is reserved. Full details available from, and credit facilities are provided by, Alliance and Loanser Personal Feature Loanted Herstage House, 61 Southques, Lescence, LE1 SRR.

Registered in England No.2486671. A wholly owned subsidiary of Alliance & Lescence Building Society. жe i

ONE CANADA SQUARE CANARY WHARF LONDON E14 5DL TELEPHONE 0171-293 2000/0171-345 2000 FAX 0171-293 2435/0171-845 2435

EDITOR: Charles Wilson

ASSISTANT EDITOR: Charles Leadbeater MANAGING EDITOR: Colin Hughes SECTION TWO EDITOR: Simon Kelner EXECUTIVE NEWS EDITOR: Michael Williams NIGHT EDITOR: Richard Holledge

NEWSPAPER PUBLISHING PLC. BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Liam Healy (Chairman) - Lord Borrie Ben Bradlee - Juan Luis Cebrián Brendan Hopkins David Montgomery - Javier Diez de Polanco - Cornel Riklin - Andreas Whittam Smith ADVERTISING DIRECTOR: Jeremy Reed

Farewell Fergie

The manner of their leaving one another becomes them. The cool and practical tone in which the divorce of the Duke and Duchess of York was announced demonstrated something their marriage has lacked.

The Duchess has at last behaved with a modicum of dignity - a quality that was so sadly lacking in much of her behaviour. By relinquishing the title of Her Royal Highness she acknowledges that Sarah Ferguson and "royalty" never quite went together. She can no longer use HRH as a key to unlock book deals and see her on to the top table at charitable fund-rais-

ing events.

The couple's timing was probably apt.
too, getting residual nastiness out of the
way to allow the Queen to celebrate her 70th birthday in the knowledge that no further family bombshell is about to burst. This week at least. This is probably the high point for the royal divorce lawvers. There are now only the three royal divorces running in parallel, Sarah and Andrew, Marina Ogilvy and her husband and Charles and Diana.

The Yorks' divorce is a formality. Since their separation they appear to have behaved towards one another with greater calm and affection than they managed in

the last years of their troubled marriage. In itself their divorce affects neither the general condition of the Royal Family nor the Queen's desperate need to steer it into calmer water. It may help the House of Windsor slowly engineer a recovery in its fortunes. The decks having been cleared a little. Perhaps the Princess of Wales may take note of her sister-in-law's capacity both to reach a settlement with her for-mer husband and then to announce it with some style. But that far trickier divorce still lies ahead.

As for the Duke, so strangely absent from the public gaze in recent months, we can only wish him well, noting that he has a role to play in restoring his family to public favour. The key to that is to follow Princess Anne's model of quiet, dutiful public service at low cost and minimum embarrassment to the taxpayer.

That is the message the royals must take from the sorry time they have had in the Nineties. Significantly, it seems to have reached Prince Charles, who is recruiting a team of fund-raisers for his Prince's Trust with the aim of making it the main inner-city charity in the country. That would be a further step on the road back to good reputation, but it will be a

Still roasting

The drift back to beef has started. Con-L sumers have begun to cross the picket lines in their minds and return to the beef shelves. Helped by low prices, sales of beef are back to 85 per cent of their level before the BSE scare began. Yet the industry is still in trouble.

Slaughterhouses hold unsold meat worth £132m. The barons in Brussels are sticking to their export ban: nary a roast beef and mustard sandwich can leave British shores. Listen and you will hear the entire beef industry, from farmers to slaughterhouses, meat processors to exporters, screaming with pain.
Enter Douglas Hogg, Faced with an

unresolved crisis of consumer confidence and an industry still collapsing around his cars, one might have expected the Secretary of State for Agriculture to unveil a strategy to restore confidence and demand. Some hope,

Yesterday he announced just a bit more compensation for farmers and slaughterhouses. Almost a month after e scare began, the Government's main strategy is to keep the beef industry going in the hope that British and European shoppers will change their minds. This may be sufficient to bring the crisis

to an end, but only with some luck. Ministers have already announced a limited cull of beef cattle more than 30 months old. Elderly dairy cattle will be kept out of the food chain. Yesterday he announced plans for "quality assurance schemes" to clearly label beef from BSEfree herds. If beef sales are already back

to 85 per cent of their pre-scare level, a few more months may bring them back to normal, as consumers become bored of the boycott and inured to the risk. EU officials have already been heard to concede that British beef is safe: so the export ban may prove unsustainable too.

This optimism is likely to prove pre-mature. In the long run demand will of the safety of the industry. Enough families across Europe have been unnerved beef for a long time to come.

Moreover, this kind of approach suggests a dangerous government compla-cency about consumer concerns. It may not be easy for anyone to assess consumer attitudes except by waiting for their reaction delivered through the market. Yet we live in an age of consumer power; greater attempts to anticipate their concerns and respond swiftly to disquiet could save everyone a lot of heartache.

As long as shoppers suspect that gov-mment is on the side of the producers, and that no-one is standing up for their interests, crises in confidence and food scares are bound to blow up again. Split-ting the Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food into separate farming and consumer departments is only a start. Making it clear that consumers have a route into public policy making should help give more focus to their views. Consumers are powerful and volatile beasts, as the Government learnt to its cost this month. It would be wise to show them more respect.

inevitably be affected by public perception by the BSE scare to stay away from British

the simple question has to be asked. Would the Israelis have embarked on such a massive military operation at such enormous cost, just to avenge the

wounding of five Israelis by Katyusha rockets, an assault that was itself retaliation for the killing of a Lebanese youth. I wonder if Mr Fisk is aware that Hizbollah have been firing the rockets at northern Israel for

not just a military operation. It is

an attempt to smash a country", 15 April), I was angered to read

the following paragraph: And in the real world of Lebanon

On a trip to Israel last summer, I visited towns in northern Israel and was shocked at the way that the Israeli civilians were used to the danger. I was even witness to a rocket attack, hearing a boom it was a Katyusha.

Israel's bombardment of southern Lebanon is an attempt to show Hizbollah that it will not allow Israeli civilians to be at daily risk.

ALEXANDER COWAN (Aged 17) Elstree, Hertfordshire

Sir: On reading Robert Fisk's Sir: Any reader of your newspaper, report from Lebanon ("This is would be led to believe that the Israeli government is trying to destroy a defenceless country, and a group of innocent people, for no reason whatsoever. Unfortunately, people have short memories.

The group which the Israelis are targeting in Lebanon are a group of terrorists. They are linked in purpose with those who send men into Israel to commit suicide in order to kill as many innocent victims as possible. Over the last few months, these groups have created a reign of terror in Israel. They have brutally murdered and injured civilians on buses, in cars and in a busy shopping centre. On Friday, another potential suicide bomber appears to have blown himself up in Jerusalem while preparing another bomb that could have

killed more people. tion. The Hizbollah is not ment of Lei a peace-keeping organisation that is trying to maintain peace within the Middle East

The new Lebanese government has failed to prevent the constant bairage of Katyusha rockets that have been targeted on northern Israel. If the situation was reversed and the IRA was bombing buses and

constantly throwing Katyusha the Israeli position. Here we have will it all end? The international rockets into your backyard, would you encourage the British gov-

- LETTERS TO THE EDITOR -

'Grapes of Wrath': Lebanon pays the price for Israel's security fears

DENNIS POTTERS KARAOKE

COLD LAZARUS

Sir: Operation "Grapes of Wrath" was launched by Israel with the objective of bringing a halt to rocket attacks on northern Israel by Hizbollah and not, as Robert Fisk asserts, for the purpose of demonstrating to President Assad what happens to those who do not want to make peace with Israel.

The Arab-Israel wars of 1948, 1956, 1967 and 1973 have already demonstrated quite adequately the consequences of waging war

London NW11

The Israelis are in an impossi- Sir: Israel's escalating bombard- saw them only as a buffer against sion of the conflict far beyond the border area, is both the gravest menace to regional stability since Iraqi tanks rolled into Kuwait and could sound the death-knell for any hope of a comprehensive peace.

But as in 1993 the general international response, including that of the British government, seems predisposed to legitimise

a defensive operation employing only pinpoint strikes against the ernment to just sit by? "terrorists", while avoiding col-lateral damage (slaughtered civilians) wherever possible. If not actually members of Hizbollah, the villagers of south Lebanon are surely lending their tacit support

to the enemies of peace? If wounded women and children are reckless enough to ride in a Hizbollah ambulance, how can the Israeli gunners know this? Last April, I travelled from Beirut to Sidon and Tyre. Although in a country regarded as a chief his-torical villain, I was confronted only with friendship and hospitality

from people desperately trying to rebuild a shattered, but naturally beautiful country.

The few individuals with a good word for Hizbollah - and these were poor Shia Muslims –

rael and its proxy militia in the Sir. Israel's strikes occupied zone. If civilians were no longer vulnerable to cross-border attack, the Hizbollah umbreila would become superfluous. RICHARD SOCKETT

London N22

Sir: After throwing out Palestinians from their homes, it is now the turn of the Lebanese. Where

community should look at the behaviour of Israelis and tell them in no uncertain terms that enough is enough. Our Defence Secretary's

HEATH

attempt to support Israel is condemnable. "It is the right of every country to have security and defend herself," says Michael Portillo (report, 16 April). What about the right of Lebanon? Does not Lebanon have the right to its security, which is now threatened by Israel by its bombing raids.

The destruction of power stations in Beirut, the emptying of villages of their inhabitants. and punishing civilians for the so-called "terrorist" acts of Hizbollah cannot be termed defensive measures.

SHAIKH MOHOMMAD Croydon, Surrey

Lebanon smack of the worst kind of cynicism. If it is a response to Lebanese resistance against Israeli occupation, then it is out of all proportion. Since it is an electioneering ploy the Lebanese are, yet again, being made to pay for other countries' internal problems.

Where blame lies

Sir. Having had the misfortune to be inside Düsseldorf airport when fire broke out last Thurs-

day, I was concerned to read (12

April) that the high death toll is

being blamed on "people in the

terminal panicking and ignoring instructions to use the fire exits".

I suspect that an attempt is being

made (co-ordinated or other-

wise) to distract attention from

the inadequacies of the airport's

fire precautions and emergency

The crucial questions that will

have to be answered at the

1. Why were the fire alarms

inevitable inquiry include:

response.

never sounded?

for airport fire

F H MIKDADI Swindon, Wiltshire

The Flick fiasco

The University of Oxford is a world-class educational institution. At its best it is a civilised and civilising place. But sometimes it behaves stupidly. That is the only judgement to be made of its mishandling of the Flick endowment to pay for a chair in European thought. The affair has exposed Oxford's creaking bureaucracy, which operated in this case with little logic and less consistency.

It has never been easy to spot the strict tests Oxford has applied to its donors. The Rhodes scholarships, which are a central feature of Oxford life, are founded upon the fortune Cecil Rhodes made in southern Africa by methods no well-meaning liberal would endorse. Oxford's fund-raising campaign in America took money from all quarters.

Oyez, oyez! Be it known that the

directors and board of BEEFTRACK

hereby declare that they are putting

on sale to the public shares in the com-

pany known as BEEFTRACK, which

cannot lose money in the future owing

to very special and meaningful rela-

tionships with the Government, which

we cannot spell out FULLY in case

anyone from the Labour Party should

read it and raise some intelligent

objections, unlikely though that seems.

BEEFTRACK do hereby authorise

that a sum of money not less than, oh,

let's say £50,000, be paid to Miles Kington Esq for the privilege of using his

column as a free publicity area for the

forthcoming sale of shares in Beeftrack.

PROSPECTUS

company formed by the Government

using taxpayers' money but making a

profit only for itself and the Tory party.

take all loss-making industries such as the railways, the beef industry, the

water industry, the newspaper indus-try, the book industry, you name it.

even the Tory party itself, and leave

them in such a mess that the incom-

ing Labour government will suffer

from such difficulties that it will not

2. The purpose of Beeftrack is to

1. Beeftrack is a publicly owned

Therefore the board and directors of

The opponents of the Flick endowment say none of that counts because this case is different. Dr Gert-Rudolf Flick's grandfather was a Nazi war criminal who made a fortune exploiting slave labour during the Second World War. Oxford might have rejected it but it took the money. Once criticism emerged, it might have defended the endowment by arguing that the origins of the money mattered far less than what was done with it. Instead Oxford delayed and wrung its hands. Dr Flick has decided

to take his £350,000 elsewhere. It is Oxford's loss. The university emerges from the affair with no credit. The vice-chancellor, Peter North, is leading an inquiry into the way the university is run. The Flick affair should tell him just how urgent reform is.

Outlaw the classroom cowboys

Sir: Fran Abrams ("Children put NASUWT for support in this at risk by parasite teacher agen-cies", 12 April) reports reply.

NASUWT fears of children at A strong code of conduct is risk from cowboy teacher agencies. As an agency founded on an ethos of service and professionalism, we share these fears.

TimePlan Education Group was the first and is the largest of the independent agencies providing temporary teaching staff to schools. Five years ago, we first approached the Education Department with a proposal either to regulate or draw up a code of conduct for agencies. Three years ago, we met officials with our professional advisers, Price Waterhouse, with a workedout scheme to police the service. Last year, we asked the

A strong code of conduct is long overdue. The Department for Education and Employment has a draft code which we understand is ready to be issued, and we last spoke to their officials three months ago to try to move

The code will cover all suppliers of temporary staff including local government. This is an essential element, since we see our rejected applicants working through both LEA and independent supply offices.

CHRIS KING Director of Education TimePlan Education Group London N3

Wakeful baby? No problem Sir: I was worried for any new need to accept that parenting is

mothers on reading your article
"Help me make it through the night" (18 April). Although there is sound advice concerning bedtime routines, I would vehemently question the implication throughout the article that those parents who respond to their child's cries in the night have a

Babies' cries are specifically designed by nature to elicit a response in their parents, a rather clever device to ensure their survival. The hormonal changes in a woman on becoming a mother, especially if she is breastfeeding, ensure that ignoring her baby's

cry feels like torture. Perhaps we need to look at the subject from a completely different angle. Perhaps we need to accept the fact that when a baby wakes alone in the dark night, it feels frightened, needs its mother and wants her to stay. Perhaps this is normal healthy behaviour, showing a strong survival instinct. and we should be proud that our baby is so smart. Perhaps we

a job that doesn't stop for a stretch of seven hours out of every 24, and maybe it is during those most frightening night-time hours that our babies need our nresence most.

An alternative answer to the problem from my own experience is: sleep with your baby and breastfeed on demand throughout the day and night. Sounds like hard work, but paradoxically you will not be too disturbed in the night after the first few months, as your baby settles in to the security of knowing you are always there and night feeds gradually

Eventually, mother and baby are so synchronised that you perform the night-time tasks in your sleep, and greet in the morning not knowing whether the baby awoke in the night or not. The result is a much more relaxed experience for both mother and child, and the rewards of loving and intimacy can't be described.

STEPHANIE DAVIES-ARAI St Albans, Hertfordshire

Sir: I was glad to read Clare

Short's comments on taxation

and even more pleased by her

declaration that she had cleared

them with herself ("Blair's joy cut

Britain's role in Short road to a world politics Labour victory

Sir: Hamish McRae ("Why Britain would fare better on the fringe", 12 April) wishes for a looser association with the EU. Perhaps, in economic terms, he is right. He cites Austria, Sweden and Switzerland as able to maintain a high living standard under such circumstances. He does not mention that these countries enjoy one advantage that our politicians of both major parties have ignored for the past half century. They do not attempt to act as world powers.

If we do follow the path advocated by Mr McRae, we should renounce all efforts to play any major role in world politics, and become professional neutrals.

like them. Failing that, there are two long-term courses open to us: to help build a new kind of Europe or to become another state of the American Union.

JAMES DAY Cambridge

2. How was smoke from a fire in one section of a very large building able to fill the entire building within five minutes of the fire's outbreak? 3. Why did it take the airport

fire brigade at least 10 minutes to reach the terminal from their fire station which lies only 500 metres away?

4. Why was a large and often densely populated public build-ing not fitted with a sprinkler system?

With so many important questions still unanswered it is premature of the authorities to place blame at the feet of those unfortunate enough to have been caught up in the catastrophe.

PETER STATHAM Maidenhead, Berkshire

Angel of power

Sir. Why not let the wings of the giant Gateshead statue (Letters, 13 April) turn in the wind? Their movement could generate free electricity for the local community. That would surely reduce the negative feelings.

ALAN C PICKWICK

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone number. (Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@ independent.co.nk) Letters may

Buy now, let Labour pay later! AN ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE BOARD OF BEEFTRACK

be able to last more than a year. 3. Therefore, using money raised by this share issue, the directors of Beef-

track propose to indulge in such madcap schemes as: a) plunging the food industry into disarray by slaughtering all available

b) plunging the world of rugby union into disarray by ordering the slaughter of all rugby administrators

over 60; c) plunging the rail industry into disarray by fragmenting it into an un-workable patchwork of conflicting

organisations: d) plunging the art world into disarray by letting the Royal Opera House go head over heels into debt and then half-bailing it out: e) promoting jealousy at all levels

by giving ludicrously large sums of

money to all outgoing heads of state

organisations or quangos, and even

f) ordering ludicrously expensive bypasses to be built round places like Newbury;

g) giving out huge sweeteners to anyone who buys shares in Beeftrack; h) offering bribes to ... but you probably get the idea by now.

4. What, you may well ask, is the point of Beeftrack making a lot of trouble in the country by mucking up the rail system, beef industry, etc? 5. We'll tell you.

6. To make a hell of a lot of money. 7. How? 8. Hold on a moment and we'll tell

9. You see, it's a hundred to one that even if the economy upturns and inflation vanishes and we all feel very good indeed, the Tories will still lose

the next election. 10. The voters are not fools.

11. Well, yes, they are fools. 12. But they are not total idiots. 13. And the public has felt for some time the crying need for a change, which means that come the next election they will vote the Tories out.

15. The voters don't particularly want Labour in, they just want the Tories out. 16. Even if the only alternative gov-

And Labour in.

the English cricket team, they would still vote the Tories out.

17. So our idea is to make things so nightmarish for the incoming government that in a year or two the electorate will, as usual, forget all the horrors of the Tory years and vote the Tories back in again. 18. At which point Beeftrack shares will rocket and we can all sell out and

19. So buy Beeftrack shares today and look after yourself tomorrowl 20. Beeftrack is a wholly owned

make a fortune!

21. The Tories are sometimes ccused of short-termism. 22. But with Beeftrack we are looking way, way ahead!

And looking after number one! 24. What about the country, you ask? 25. Never mind about that - what's good for Beeftrack is good for the COUNTRY!

27. Well, not sense exactly, but a lot of money. 28. Remember, where shares are concerned, what goes up may come down. 28. And remember, where governments are concerned, what goes in

You know it makes sense.

must get in again! 29. Buy Beeftrack shares now ... 30. And see you again when the ernment was Ray Illingworth and Tories get back in!

short by new tax row", 15 April). I would like Tony Blair and Peter Mandelson to know that so long as Clare Short is in the Shadow Cabinet I feel that I will have some reason to vote Labour at the next election. I would urge them both to make full use in Labour's campaign of her weapons of truth and honesty.

Turkey's gold

April).

Sir: Was King Priam a German? The Trojan gold belongs in Turkey if anywhere ("Trojan gold fuels rift over war treasures". 16

JOHN MOLE

LINDSAY MELLER

Southampton

London SE24 | be edited for length and clarity.

1 Jey 100 1.50

 $\tau \in \Sigma_{n}$. . 3.4. 47. ×LC - --

23 M

....

.. −a :≥:= 🖫 --

1 - 180 24

7-71

过机 er u 72.00

· 中国国 * Hr. Sp H213 . 244 **6**4 The lynch mob was still at the door baying for blood yesterday when I talked to Mary Hartnoll, Glasgow's support of her council leader, she is director of social work. She has just endured the full wrath of the media after her internal memo about drugs to the chief executive of Glasgow City Council was leaked. She says ruefully, I would never have expected this furore," but others could have warned her. Public people cannot speak hon-

estly about drugs and hope to live. Paul Betts, father of the Ecstasy victim Leah Betts, was first among her critics, calling her "totally irresponsible" and "absolutely stupid", claiming she had set back his campaign by a decade. The local Labour MP, George Foulkes, declared himself "absolutely astonished by her comments. Tory MPs jumped in with glee. The Glasgow board that licenses clubs and pubs. about whom she was writing, retaliated by claiming that her remarks "flew in the face" of everything they were doing to stamp out drugs. From the reaction caused by her letter, you might imag-The she had called for heroin to be on

sale in primary school canteens. What she actually said was straight-forward, factual and sensible. "The irony is that Ecstasy, for example, is a relatively safe drug - risk of death has been calculated as one in 6.8 million (the risk of dying of aspirin is very much greater) - and young people tend to know this. For every highly publicised death, those who use regularly balance their experience of their own and friends' experience of frequent, safe and enjoyable usage."

113 .

Admirably, she stands by what she

support of her council leader, she is plainly aghast at what has befullen her. After all, she is not some trendy new arrival but a 56-year-old who has been a director of social services since 1978. She speaks from a depth of experience of running social services in several areas, and now in Glasgow with its many drug rehabilitation programmes and anti-drug campaigns.

This is the story: undergoing local reorganisation, Glasgow council, like many other areas, is in the throes of drawing up new policies in new committees. The controversy started when the Glasgow Licensing Board initiated a hardline anti-drugs policy in the granting of licences to clubs and dance In her letter she was not suggesting

anyone should be soft on drugs. "Tough law enforcement is essential," she says. But she was calling for higher safety standards. She wants all licensed dance clubs and events to provide chill-out areas and supply free water. There should be accurate information on drug misuse in these areas, with stewards trained in first aid in case anyone collapses. These "harm reduction measures" are designed to reduce the number of collapses or deaths caused by over-heated dancers on Ecstasy. But the licensing board rejected this proposal, as it seemed to them to be a facil acceptance, or even approval of young people in these clubs taking drugs. Mary Hartnoll was writing a memo to try to persuade the council to overturn the board's wrote and she has not been panicked intransigence, in the name of safety.



Public people cannot speak honestly about drugs and hope to live

These "harm reduction measures" were drawn up by a working party two years ago, set up by the Secretary of State for Scotland following the tragedy in the Hanger 13 nightclub in Ayr, where three young people died after taking Ecstasy. If the aim of drug policy is to reduce the number of deaths, then these measures are widely regarded as life-savers.

But the licensing board's refusal to introduce them reveals another agenda lurking just beneath the surface in much official thinking or nonthinking about drugs. This agenda suggests people should be punished for taking drugs because drug-taking is in itself wicked - and it frightens the life out of older people who have never encountered it. The public is encouraged to panic at the very word "drug" and mass hysteria drives out

between "relatively safe" and extremely dangerous drugs disappears in a cold sweat of terror, as evidence and facts are cast aside. There has never been a recorded death from cannabis, so prosecuting 56,000 people a year for it blurs the crucial difference between such "relatively safe" drugs and those which destroy not only their users, but also to the community around them.

Miss Hartnoll was blasted for say-

ing Ecstasy is "relatively safe", but those words are used by most of the expens, including the man who collates most information on Ecstasy deaths, Dr John Henry of the National Poisons Information Service. It is not safe, he says, for no widely used drug is safe. He fears it may cause increased depression in later life, but as drugs go, E is "relatively safe". Nothing like as dangerous as drink and tobacco, for instance, and three time more people die of paracetemol, while thousands more young people die driving their

Miss Hartnoll says the young know a great deal about drugs - though often not enough. The "Leah Betts -Sorted" posters invite disbelief from a generation where millions take it every Saturday night without obvious bad effect. She says a recent survey in Glasgow – the city with the most drug deaths, at 100 per year – found half the young women and two thirds of young men took drugs. Six per cent were on heroin, 8 per cent on cocaine or crack - frightening numbers. But for the great majority taking soft drugs was a recreational social activity that did not

reason. So the vital difference interfere with their jobs or education. (By far the commonest drug was

So in the face of this widespread drug-taking, what kind of effective anti-drug warnings do you issue? "Just Say No" doesn't work, but Miss Hartnoll says, "honesty matters if you want to be believed."

Now she is setting out to persuade her new council to adopt a practical and realistic approach. She says what worked best in the past was a scheme called Operation Eagle, which com-bined tough law enforcement against drug dealers by the police, a health promotion campaign with truthful information about comparative risks, and good youth clubs involving local adults. Undaunted, she believes she will persuade the council to overturn the Licensing Authority's rejection of harm reduction measures in clubs. However, people like her who talk

honestly about drugs can expect nothing but trouble. It is not OK to suggest that millions of young people take drugs at the weekends and suffer less than they would from a heavy night in the pub. It is not OK to point out that no Ecstasy or cannabis-crazed madmen smash bottles in each other's faces at closing time. Anyone in authority even hinting at this these facts can expect the same bucketful of media ordure that was dumped on Mary Hartnoll in recent days. Drugs are an increasingly important aspect of our national life, and yet none of our law makers or law enforcers are allowed to debate the facts openly: across the parties lips zip, jaws clamp, eyes shut and ranks close.

in order to increase its teaching funds.

The present teaching and research funding methodologies are institutionally inequitable, and they are fun-

damentally unstable in the long run if

universities are to be encouraged to

sustain missions for the benefit of soci-

ety that are both diverse and cost effec-

tive. We therefore see the need to cre-

ate a third stream of money, which we

call professional development and

teaching, targeted to university depart-

ments that have student/staff ratios

above the national average and did not

enter the research assessment exercise.

dent/staff ratios, to provide academic

staff with more time to keep abreast of

A non-selective policy

would of course be

possible, but it is not

the quality option

their subjects and to better perform as

be possible to contribute to the support of the professional activity of academic staff with, for example, library and lab-oratory materials for teaching, staff training and the cost of academic col-

laboration with other institutions.

Where is the money for this third

stream going to come from? If it cannot be found as genuinely new money to the university system, our pre-ferred option would be to seek

units of assessment with the low rat-

ing of two, with that sum currently

effective university teachers. It may also

We seek in this way to reduce stu-

Kafka at large in Clwyd

The Welsh Secretary must rescue a child abuse report from the shredder, says Rhodri Morgan

Derbyshire County Council, and two distinguished colleagues have spent most of the past two years drawing up a 300-page report on the child abuse scandal in Clwyd, North Wales. Clwyd County Council commissioned it. It cost more than £500,000 to compile. If William Hague, the Sec-

retary of State for Wales, doesn't step in soon, all copies of the report, even including Jillings's own copy, will be hauled back to Shire Hall, Mold, and fed through the county council's paper shred-der. Is there any hope for child protection if our political sysiem allows Kafkaesque acts of mass evidence destruction?

Mr Hague has been sent a copy. If he places it in the Library of the House of Commons, not only is the report saved from the shredder, but MPs can read it, debate it, copy chunks of it, quote from it and generally ensure that the right essons are learned.

How important is the report? On the child-abuse Richter scale, Clwyd must rate much higher than the Staffordshire Pindown scandal and the Frank Beck case in Leicestershire. Seven men have been con-victed of paedophile offences, committed while they were working in children's homes in Clwyd. None received sentences of less than four years.

The criminal trials did not and could not look at the patterns and linkages, neither between the defendants themselves, nor with any wider paedophile rings. That was why the then Chief Constable of North Wales, David Owen, called for a judicial inquiry on September 4 1992. That was also why. three days later, the Weish Office minister responsible for health and social services issued a statement saying: "I have concluded that a public inquiry is necessary to consider the matter fully."

The only caveat was that the inquiry could not start until the criminal trials were finished, but when they did, something curious happened. Nicola Davies QC was commissioned to advise, after an "examination of relevant papers held by the various agencies concerned, whether an inquiry is required".

Her conclusions were that inquiries were in her experience traumatic for all concerned and would not help Clwyd and Gwynedd to improve their present child care practice. She made no reference to the ministerial undertaking of Sep-

John Jillings, the former tember 1992 to have such an inquiry and did not appear to inquiry and did not appear to be aware of it. In addition, the inquiry that she advised against. into whether Clwyd and Gwynedd were presently failing children in care, was much narrower than the one promised by the Welsh Office in September

:non,

pos-litire

The county council mean-time pressed ahead with its own inquiry, but without powers of subpoena and no access to North Wales Police files, nor to reports from the Welsh Office Social Services Inspectorate. But, there will, we all thought, at least be some kind of report into the scandal. The gods who protect pae-

Should insurance companies be able to veto a report's publication?

dophile rings from investigation then came up with their most ingenious trick yet. Clwyd County Council was insured by Municipal Mutual. They had got into serious financial diffi-culties in 1991-92, partially because of huge payouts to children abused in Staffordshire and Leicestershire children's homes.

They were in an insurance limboland known as "solvent run-off", unable to write new business, but still meeting old claims. Clwyd County Council was itself to disappear on 1 April this year under local government re-organisation. When semi-solvent insurance company meets disappearing county council, child protection is unlikely to come top of the

Should insurance companies have the ability to veto publication of independent reports into local government scandals? Westminster City Council has published its report into its own asbestos-ridden flatsfor-homeless-families scandal and is reported to be in serious difficulties with Commercial

Insurance companies' fears of adding to the number of claims is understandable. Child protection and open government are far more important. That is why William Hague must step in and save the Jillings report from the

The writer is the Labour MP for Cardiff West,

Britain needs brainpower

Funding research in only a few key universities sounds unfair but makes sense, argues David Harrison

Research is the advancement of learning through the discovery of new knowledge, or of new associations between events or phenomena already known. It is original in nature and its greatest achievements enjoy a lasting and worldwide recognition. In short, it contributes to the quality of life.

The group I chaired - set up by the British Academy, the Conference of Medical Royal Colleges, the Royal Academy of Engineering and the Royal Society – has concluded that for Britain to maintain its ability to conduct high-quality research, the funds available must be concentrated in relatively few universities. This may strike critics as not being fair, but it reflects an unavoid-

We in no way hide our concern that the UK is falling behind its major competitors

able fact: a critical lack of resources.

Our group was asked whether the present university system has the research capability to deliver what is now being asked of it. We consulted very widely and the answer we must give is no. This follows inevitably from the abundant endence we were given on: abundant evidence we were given on: The low proportion of the national GDP assigned overall in this country to research and development compared with that in other leading industrial countries. The quality of our university research is ultimately judged by

international standards. ■ The rising student/staff ratios - for example, from 13 to 19 students per member of staff in the humanities, and from 10 to 15 in engineering - which are squeezing the staff time so essential for high-quality research. The serious rundown of university

infrastructure, including libraries, equipment and building maintenance. Our response to this situation could have been a vigorous and heartfelt call for more public expenditure on research, and in our report we in no way hide our concern that the UK is falling behind its major international competitors. We were nevertheless obliged - again on the evidence put to us - to face the painful likelihood that public funding per student will con-tinue to fall; and this would be on top of a 20 per cent fall in real terms in the five years to 1993-94. This decline greatly reinforces the pressure on universities to increase their other sources of research funding (eg, from charities, industry, the European Union and alumni).



Michael Faraday, 19th century physicist: can British universities maintain the tradition?

Research money is not distributed uniformly across the 100 or so universities in the UK, and it never has been. Originally, each year's distribution largely followed a historical pattern; but, since the first national research assessment exercise in 1986, and again in 1989 and 1992, the funding councils' distribution has been arrived at by peer review, which has sought to reward high-quality research. This has been judged by national standards (given research ratings of three or four) or international standards (rating five). The degree of concentration is now high, with more than 50 per cent of all research grant and contract income to all universities in 1993-94 going to 15 universities. This selectivity of research funding occurs not only with funding

councils but equally with research

councils, charities and industry. Our recommendationm, therefore, to increase concentration of research funds in a relatively few universities follows inevitably from the severe, long-term constraints on public funding, and the high cost normally associated with the achievement of high quality on the international stage. The degree of selectivity reflects the

A non-selective policy would of course be possible, and it is perhaps an easy option that some say would lead to a fairer system. But it is not the quality option, nor the one the English Funding Council had in mind when it said in evidence to the Government's review of higher education last year: "For academic as well as economic rea-

sons, care should be taken to maintain a number of world-class institutions which compare internationally with the very best universities in the world."

We consider it is vital for the funding councils to develop methods that explicitly encourage a diversity of mission across a system of a hundred universities. Many academic staff are no longer in effect funded for research, and certainly not adequately, and it is deeply unsatisfactory that with only two available streams of money - one for teaching and the other for research - that all universities are forced to compete for research funds regardless of their institutions' mission. This pressure is heightened, particularly at the present time because the ceiling on the number of home and EU students is an impediment to any university wishing to grow

resources for professional development and teaching from present research funding at the lower end of the quality range, as judged by the research assessment exercises. For example, for the English universities in 1992, about £30m was allocated to

> allocated almost equally between the old and the new universities. The introduction of this new funding stream by raiding the existing research stream will not, of course, be universally popular; but we urge its serious consideration by the funding councils with, we hope, government encouragement in favour of diversity of mission, in order to meet the essential needs for high quality, equity between universities and the future financial stability of the uni-

versity system as a whole. The writer, Master of Selwyn College, Cambridge, chaired a working group on university research by the British Academy, the Conference of Medical Royal Colleges, the Royal Academy of Engineering and the Royal Society.

trast between the two sides of the

river. It will grant Londoners and oth-

ers the best imaginable views of the

city - views previously available only to those with access to helicopters. It

will bring visitors flocking back to a

quarter that, for all its centrality, too

often threatens to slide into decrepi-

One cavil: is the form of the latest

version of the wheel not a little too

refined, a little too High Modernist?

tude and irrelevance.

Oxfam needs your help in Lebanon

Up to 400,000 people have fled the bombing of South Lebanon.

Oxfam has worked in the country since 1982 and helped refugees like these before. Already our partners on the ground are providing vital food and medical supplies.

> You can help these people too. Please give a donation today.

Yes, I want to help. Here is my donation of:

£15 🗆 £50 🗆 £100 🗆 £250 🗆 £

Please send to: Oxfam, Room BBSS, FREEPOST, Oxford OX2 7BR.

To donate by credit card © 01865 312231



It is easy to imagine what will go wrong. It will break down on the first day. Stunned by the view, a little old lady will have a heart attack at the top. A small IRA bomb will go off in one of the gondolas, after which it will remain, standing but unmoving and unusable, a monument to futility - like the rotating cafe in the Telecom Tower, which closed permanently soon after it opened, following a bomb attack, and has remained stub-

Arnly shut ever since. Some such eventualities are all too likely - and it is partly the chance of defying them that makes the giant South Bank Ferris wheel such an attractive proposal. It is also a welcome opportunity to frustrate entrenched interests who have set their faces against London's propensity to change. Lord St John of Pawsley, arch-

A big wheel for London

Peter Popham welcomes a bit of vulgarity on the river

fogey, recently appointed to a second term as chairman of the Royal Fine Arts Commission, is dead against it. The 20th Century Society wants to freeze the South Bank Art Centre's concrete brutalism just the way it is, they will be grashing their teeth over the marmalade this morning. All that's required is for the Prince of Wales to liken it to something grotesque - an old bicycle wheel hauled up from the riverbed by some unfortunate angler - and the grounds for pressing ahead

But the grounds are in any case very strong. As the architect Piers Gough has pointed out, there has always been a dichotomy between the dignitas of the Thames's North Bank-Parliament, Big Ben, Somerset House and so on - and the frivolity of the South Bank, with its art and theatre, its television studios and Oxo Tower. For centuries the contrast was much more stark than it is today, from the bear baiting of the Globe and the flirtation and drunkenness at Vauxhall Gardens to the roller coasters of Battersea Fun Fair.

In recent times, the contrast has become blurred: the bears, the gardens and the fun fair are all gone, the brutalism, so daring in its day, has become respectable; the new Tate planned for Bankside Power Station promises an infusion of high Modernist worthiness, never a recipe for fun and games. The only dollop of frivolity, confusingly, is Terry Far-rell's tumescent Charing Cross station, on the north side.

The giant wheel will help to restore this interesting and meaningful con- and a view of the task before us.

We don't want BA logos (corporate flag-waving should be confined to the inflight magazine and the sick bags) but

a little more pizazz, a little more vulgarity would be in order. It's an exaggeration to say that the wheel will restore London to its citizens: no mere structure can do that. But its presence will give a lift to the new millennium

JП

al

tav

Ja:

Laı

/hi

ha

he

vill

Louis Osman

goldsmith, draftsman, art historian and art patron. Most of all, he was a creator of genius.

He trained at the Bartlett School of Architecture, and studied drawing at the Slade School of Art. In 1935 he became FRIBA, winning a Donaldson Medal and a scholarship which in 1936 took him to Syria on a British Museum archaeology expedition. In the Second World War he was a major in Intelligence, involved in Combined Operations and the Special Air Service, and - perhaps the decisive event of his life - in 1940 he married Dilys Roberts; she became his enamellist as well as his unswerving supporter, the lifelong steadying influence on his mercurial

As architect, Osman began in Sir Albert Richardson's office, learning there the grammar of ornament and the basis of architectural good manners, a debt to Richardson which he always generously acknowledged. His own ideas were more original than Richardson's, but he used to point with satisfaction at the new Jockey Club building in Newmarket, which he helped to design with Richardson, and which looks today as if it were a Georgian

By 1950, Osman was emerging in his true creative colours. He rebuilt the two bomb- a tiny Italian Renaissance palazdamaged Georgian buildings on the north side of Cavendish Square in London which became the Convent of the Holy Child Jesus, joined them with a new bridge, and commissioned Epstein's magnificent Madonna and Child for the central feature on the bridge. It was then that I came to know him well. partly because, with characteristic imagination, he asked the explained to me there how silversmith Philip Popham to make a small commemorative tablet to bury inside the masonry of the bridge, and I, already working at Goldsmiths' Hall in the City, was interested in any commissions for modern

warmth of his feelings for other artists, and the sensitivity of his appreciation of old buildings. He had asked his friend the sculptor John Skeaping which

Louis Osman sparked on many cylinders. He was architect, Royal College of Art might be sculpture ex-students from the interested in a major public commission. Osman wrote to four promising youngsters, but they all replied they were too busy for a few months. Exasperated, he then wrote to Epstein, who was by then world-famous. Next morning. Epstein turned up on Osman's doorstep, and London's finest public sculpture was the result.

Osman enjoyed telling this story, to illustrate how spoilt and unrealistic some art students could become. He believed that all artists should snatch at any opportunity to undertake commissions, to satisfy a practical need. He also liked to put this commission in its difficult context, describing the origins of the long vista from Cavendish Square down to St George's, a vista which the convent buildings and sculpture helped to enhance. I realised the breadth of his learning.

Other big architectural commissions included Ranston House in Dorset, involving an almost total rebuild of a Georgian mansion, which John Martin Robinson in his book Latest Country Houses (1984) calls "among the most distinguished and stylish houses created since the last war". Another big statement, now alas altered with the central court roofed in, was the Principal's Lodging at Newnham College, Cambridge, like zo, but with splendid modern stained glass, and big sculptures

by Geoffrey Clarke. Another success for Osman was his restoration of Staunton Harold church, in Leicestershire, for the National Trust. Perhans more important was Shere church in Surrey, where his splendid altar frontals and ornaments are still in use. He nearly all architects fail to discern correctly which parts of interior medieval walls were rendered with cement, which were intended to reveal the

beauty of the bare stone. Osman did not enjoy the new architecture of accurate I soon learnt from Osman the cost-accounting and quantitysurveying. He once worked for Sir Richard Seifert, doyen of this new style of prefabricated office building. Osman told me how he had to hide beneath Seifert's seried to replace crude repairs

of angry visiting creditors; Osman was not the only British architect to incur money problems in the Sixties. Seifert later confirmed this anecdote to me. adding a charming postscript: "Mr Osman," he said, "is the most creative man I have ever met."

Osman was the first to admit that he was a "lousy businessman", which is partly why his architectural practice did not flourish. He could be alarmingly honest with his clients. Graham Sutherland, the painter, wrote to him, "You are the only architect I know who can draw.' The result, alas, was that Osman spent more energy on his beau-tiful architectural drawings than he did on the equally vital costings. A friend once called Osman "the original hippie", meaning that his loving nature was not overloaded with material self-interest.

Osman made a huge, visionary scheme for Lord Roborough's model village striding across Dartmoor. For St John's Smith Square, Osman, supported by the Earl of Harewood and others, planned an interior with a ceiling by Picasso. Osman knew that the original Georgian architecture by Thomas Archer had not survived sufficiently to warrant what was eventually chosen, a reconstruction in a faked Archer style. For an extension to St Edmund Hall, Oxford, Osman dreamed of a tall cantilevered tower, an exciting addition to a famous skyline.

He loved details, and the artists and craftsmen who made them, and it was this love which eventually turned him into an amazing goldsmith. For Lady Hollenden in Gloucestershire, he designed a green oak cantilevered spiral staircase 5ft wide. The engineering was difficult to make, the cost was difficult to estimate, because nothing like it had ever been made anywhere before. It was a great success.

For the Marchioness of Lothian at Melbourne Hall. Derbyshire, he restored the Georgian garden arbour by the blacksmith Robert Bakewell. He told me that a ton of paint was removed, and a thousand new pieces of wrought iron in-



which had been improvised with bits of gas piping. The original colours were discovered and restored, and a masterpiece of irouwork was reborn.

He wrote, "In the past, peo-ple didn't mind if they made lewels or cathedrals; now, most architects would feel very let down if they had to make their wife a button." Osman moved out of masonry and into precious metals with grace and apparent ease. A symbolic link between these parallel careers of his was the first of the diocesan treasuries organised by the Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths in cathedrals, to house and display plate from the diocese: we commissioned Osman to design the treasury in Lincoln Cathedral. Again, in 1969, we commissioned him to make the crown which we presented to the Prince of Wales for his investiture in Caernarvon Castle.

the Queen asked a mutual friend whether the crown would be on time: "Certainly, ma'am," came the reply. "It will arrive at the very last moment, and it will be a work of high genius, but the artist may be covered in straw, and the floor of his van may be

covered in cowpats." The crown, now in the National Museum of Wales in Cardiff, is deservedly the bestknown piece of new British gold of this century. It was made by a process still new for gold - electroforming - and it launched Osman's new home. the huge Northamptonshire mansion Canons Ashby, where he now made his workshop with half a dozen helpers.

In 1971 came the triumphant Louis Osman Gold Exhibition at Goldsmiths' Hall, financed by various gold mining concerns, with the impressive total of 105 exhibits, nearly all made in Osman's favourite metal, gold.

Edinburgh cails Osman a great craftsman, which seems no less than fair comment. In 1973, Osman finished the first of his majestic series of medals, for the exhibition at Goldsmiths' Hall 'Medals Today", including some inspired floor plans and profiles of cathedrals housing

Canons Ashby, including several fine jewels which he had started to add to his vocabulary. sometimes for his neighbours like the Isham family. In 1958 he made a very heavy

cast silver wine mug for Sir Hen-Tizard to use at Goldsmiths' Hall. Tizard, slightly nonplussed by the weight of the mug, eventually found a word of praise for it: "It will be useful to throw at people in committee meetings.

the Goldsmiths' treasuries. In

1974, Osman startled his neigh-

bours with an extraordinary

one-man show of 131 pieces at

In the catalogue the Duke of patient in committees, liked

One of Osman's first big commissions had been in 1964. for a new high altar cross in Ely Cathedral. Graham Sutherland made the central crucifix. Sadly, the cathedral rejected this major work, which ended in Dallas Museum, after a spell with Emery Reves, the Sutherland collector, at Villa la Pausa outside Marseilles. Osman made the high altar cross for Exeter cathedral (now in St Gabriel's Chapel there); a lectern for the Victoria and Albert Museum; in 1976, the gold, enamelled casket for Magna Carta, given by the British government to celebrate the Bicentennial, and now in the Capitol at Washington; and a long succession of magnificent,

provocative treasures for the collection at Goldsmiths' Hall. "Your work must show pas-died New sion," he used to say to his April 1996.

craftsmen. He disliked mathematical perfection and symmetry: he always demanded personality and individuality. Once when I was with him, he was as usual explaining his ideas by drawing them. The pencil became blunt. What he was saying was so urgent that. instead of sharpening the point, he simply broke the whole pencil in half to reveal an

undamaged lead inside. A blunt lead would not stop Osman's creative flow. Nor did his near-bankruptcy in 1979. when he left Canons Ashby and moved to Byford Court in Herefordshire, then to Harpton Court, in Powys.

Graham Hughes

Louis Osman, artist, architect. goldsmith, medallist: born Excter 30 January 1914; married 1940 Dilvs Roberts (one daughter); died New Radnor, Powys 11 (

Lord Brand

In the Scottish criminal community, word had it that great was the misfortune of the accused if they were to appear in the court of Lord Brand. 'Anyone but him!" was the refrain. Indeed, on most occasions - but not all, because Brand was a discerning judge - he dished out heavy sentences, frequently

apparently ferocious sentences. As my constituent - he was not shy in raising his personal concerns, and those of the villagers of Dalmeny, where he lived in the old manse, with his Member of Parliament - I once asked him why he was the latter-day Judge Jeffreys of the Scottish legal system. The reply was far from the crusty, stock answer which might have been expected from the publicly perceived (but mistaken) image of a stuffy, out-of-touch, judge.

"It's like this, I suppose. Some of my most formative vears were spent in the appalling conditions of Burma in the last years of the Second World War. I was one of the lucky ones: I was neither captured nor killed. But I saw a lot of good men who were and I just think that those for whom they have laid down their lives should jolly well behave themselves.

Those whom I have sent to Barlinnie or Saughton [the Edinburgh prison] do not know how lucky they are compared to those poor bastards despatched to Changi gaol or the Japanese camps, and those who now lie in Taukkyan [the war cemetery in Rangoon or Thanbyuzavat (the huge and moving Commonwealth War Graves

Commission cemetery]. Years later, when Brand was much in the public eye as the prosecuting counsel securing the second murder conviction of Donald Forbes, who had struck again within six weeks of being released on licence from his first life sentence, a gnarled old sergeant from the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders who came to my surgery on entirely different business said as he was leaving: "See, you Brand. He was a very brave lad. Mind you he was clumsy too. Ought to have got an MC. Good officer when the chips were down.

This was an unsolicited testimonial from a man, himself a holder of the Military Medal, in a position to know.

It was perhaps indicative of Brand's spirit that he got himself seconded to the King's African Rifles and set about learning Swahili, a task well within the compass of one who had studied Classics for two vears at university when he entered Glasgow at 16. Forty years on Brand was to be honoured by being made a Judge of Appeal at the High Court of Botswana in 1994 partly on

account of his interest in and knowledge of the local

David Brand's father, a Sheriff Substitute and Writer to the Signet in Dumfries, died when he was nine. His uncle financed his education at Stonyhurst College and throughout his life Brand was a staunch and devout Roman Catholic, contributing in particular to the parish life of St Margaret's Roman Catholic parish in South Queensferry. After the war, which he ended as a captain, he completed his legal studies at Edinburgh University, joined the Faculty of Advocates in 1948 and became Junior Counsel to the Department of Education for Scotland in 1951. This was invaluable experi-

ence when he was the minister who had to deal with the cause célèbre which rumbled on for a decade and more of the case of Malloch vs Aberdeen Corporation which reached the House of Lords in April 1971 before Lords Reid, Morris of Borth-y-Gest, Lord Guest, Lord Wilberforce and Lord Simon of Glaisdale. It involved natural justice, public authority, dismissal of an employee, statutory protection, dismissal being invalid unless the employee was receiving not less than three weeks' notice of motion for dismissal and the whole question of teacher registration. Brand

was thought to have acquitted himself with distinction in such

high-powered legal company. After being Sheriff of Dumfries and Galloway and Sheriff of Roxburgh, Berwick and Selkirk he was appointed Solicitor-General in the Heath government. He led the evidence at the fatal accident inquiry into three major disasters. The first was at the Glasgow Rangers stadium when 66 football supporters were crushed to death when the crowd turned at the barriers hearing of a late goal. Secondly, Brand led the evidence into a gas explosion at Clarkston in Glasgow which claimed the lives of 21 shoppers, and thirdly he dealt with the Cairngorm case when six schoolchildren perished in atrocious weather conditions

because of bad supervision. He was well known for his meticulous preparation, something that he had learnt from Professor Sir Ernest Wedderburn, the distinguished Professor at Edinburgh University and founder of the legal firm of Shepherd and Wedderburn, who had taken an interest in

Brand after his father died. Throughout his life Brand was supported by two strong and remarkable women. His first wife Josephine died in 1968 and his second wife Vera to whom he was married for 27 years had been Josephine's

(Charles) Leonard Woolley, ar-

bridesmaid at their wedding. In his memoirs, An Advocate's Tale (1994). Brand describes the arrangement whereby he was a government minister but not a member either of the House of Lords or the House of Commons as being highly satisfactory, as he was able really to give his attention to the Crown Office side of a law officer's work without having to trudge up and down for parliamentary divisions. He was an ornament in the best sense of the word to the Scottish legal system.

Perhaps Brand's most lasting contribution will be for the work that he did as chairman of the Medical Appeal Tribunal from 1959 to 1970. As a constituency MP in those years representing ex-shale-miners and coalminers angry that their chronic bronchitis did not en- Advocate-Depute for Sherifftitle them to pneumoconiosis benefits I was involved with Brand as chairman. Harsh he may have been in the criminal court, lenient and human he was in the medical tribunal. I asked him how he had become interested in medical problems.

Again it was back to Burma. The 14th Army had instituted Malaria Forward Treatment Units (MFTUs), which were in effect field hospitals tented, or more often in bashas, a few miles behind the forward edge of the battlefield. Such a system reduced the load on lines of

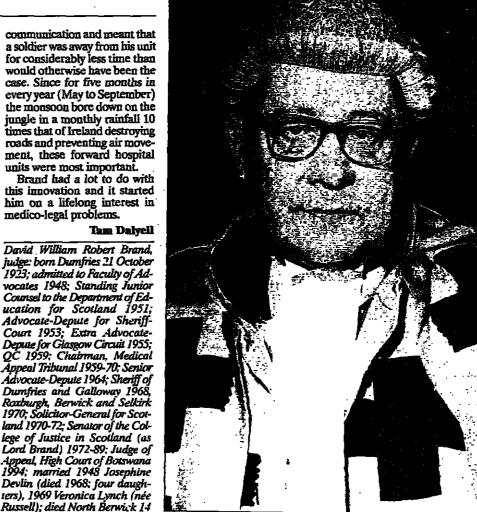
Cuba took place at the Bay of Pigs.

a soldier was away from his unit for considerably less time than would otherwise have been the case. Since for five months in every year (May to September) the monsoon bore down on the jungle in a monthly rainfall 10 times that of Ireland destroying roads and preventing air movement, these forward hospital units were most important.

Brand had a lot to do with this innovation and it started him on a lifelong interest in medico-legal problems.

Tam Dalyell

David William Robert Brand, judge: born Dumfries 21 October 1923; admitted to Faculty of Advocates 1948; Standing Junior Counsel to the Department of Education for Scotland 1951; Court 1953; Extra Advocate-Depute for Glasgow Circuit 1955: QC 1959; Chairman, Medical Appeal Tribunal 1959-70; Senior Advocate-Depute 1964; Sheriff of Dumfries and Galloway 1968, Roxburgh, Berwick and Selkirk 1970; Solicitor-General for Scotland 1970-72; Senator of the College of Justice in Scotland (as Lord Brand) 1972-89: Judge of Appeal, High Court of Botswana 1994; married 1948 Josephine Devlin (died 1968; four daughters), 1969 Veronica Lynch (née Russell); died North Berwick 14



Brand: a latter-day Judge Jeffreys of the Scottish legal system

DEATHS

ALLSOP: On 15 April, peacefully in a London nursing home, Jonathan, aged 50 years. Beloved son of Mary Straw. Dear brother of Margaret Jennings. Loved and missed by his many friends. Puneral service at the Chapel in All Souls Cemetery, Ken-Chapel in All Souls Cemetery, Ken-sal Green, London, on Friday 19 April, at 12 noon, Flowers to Lever-ton and Sous Ltd, Funeral Directors,

RAULENER: Ceinwen (née Farrow), died 8 April 1996, following an acci-dent in the French Alps, Much-lowed wife to Peter, daughter to Roy and Al-wyn, sister to Liz, Chris and Alan, and granddaughter. Funeral to be held at St Peter's, Ruddington, Nottingham, on Monday 22 April at 2.15pm. on monay 22 April at 2.13pm.
Friends and colleagues welcome. A
memorial trust will be set up to assist with training of British mountain
guides. No flowers please, but donations to Midland Bank ple. Poultry and Princess Street, 40-05-30, a/c

KEOHANE: Kevin William, CBE KCSG, died suddenly on Saturday 13 April. Adored husband of Pat, a

Lectures

Victoria and Albert Museum: Imogen Stewart, "Early 17th-century Portrait Miniatures", 2.30pm. Tate Gallery: James Malnos, "British Impressionism: a brush with light",

Births, **Marriages** & Deaths

wonderful father and grandfather, who will be missed by his many, many friends, Requiem mass on Thesday 23 April at 12 noon, The Sacred Heart Church, Edge Hill, Wimbledon, Family flowers only, donations may be made to Cafod or Jesuit Missions, c/o David Small. Funeral Directors, 169 Menton Road, Wandsworth, London SW18.

KLEIN: Josephine Parlitt Klein died on 11 April, aged 67. Funeral (no black; anall bunches of flowers only) will be held today at St Marylebone Crematorium, East Finchley, at 11.30 am.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS may be telephoned to 0171-293 2011 or faxed to 0171-293 2010, and are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra)

Curators and Conservators (iii): Neapolitan School, The Adorra the Shepherds", 1pm.

British Museum: Barbara Brend

"Moghul Mosques and Tombs".

National Gallery: Gabriele Finaldi,

Birthdays Mrs Sirimavo Bandaranaike, for-

mer prime minister of Sri Lanka, 80; Mr Chris Barber, jazz musician, 66; Mr John Barrett, tennis commentator, 65; Mr Norman Cowans, crick-eter, 35; Miss Ruth Etchells, former Principal, St John's College, Durham, 65; Miss Clare Francis, novelist and yachtswoman, 50; Mrs Anne Harris, former national chairman. National Federation of Women's Institutes, 71; Miss Olivia Hussey, actress, 45; Mr Henry Kelly, broadcaster, 50; Mr James Last, bandleader, 67; The Hon Sir Humphrey Mand, Deputy Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, 62; Mr Riccardo Patrese, grand prix driver, 42; Mrs Dora Saint ("Miss Read"), writer, 83; Mrs Eileen Stamers-Smith, former Headmistress. Malvern Girls' College, 67; Dr Michael Stroud, explorer, 41; Sir Michael Vernon, chairman, RNLI, 70; The Right Rev John Yates, former Bishop of Gloucester,

Anniversaries

Births: John Ford, playwright, 1586; Henry Vaughan, poet, 1622; Vaclav Jan (Wenzel Johann) Tomasek, or-ganist, pianist and composer, 1774; lames Thom, sculptor, 1802; Vicat Cole, painter, 1833; John Pierpont Morgan, financier, 1837; Ian Hay (John Hay Beith), novelist, 1876; Sir

chaeologist, 1880; Dame Margaret Teyte (Maggie Tate), soprano, 1888; 1961; in Czechoslovakia, Alexander Dubcek was replaced by Dr Gustav Nikita Sergeyevich Khrushchev, Husak as first secretary of the Com-Russian leader, 1894; Thornton Niven Wilder, novelist and playwright, 1897; Lindsay Gordon Anderson, film, television and theatre director, 1923. Deaths: Marie de Rabutin Chantal, Marquise de Sévigné, writer, 1696; Benjamin Franklin, author, diplomat and scientist, 1790; Catherine Maria Fanshawe, painter and poet, 1834; James Thom, sculp tor, 1850; Alexander Mackenzie, first Liberal prime minister of Canaelist, 1972; General Mark Wayne Clark, soldier, 1984; Scott Brady (Gerald Tierney), actor, 1985. On this

day: at Dordrecht (Dort), Holland, the sea broke through the dykes, and over 100,000 people were drowned, 1421; Martin Luther was excommunicated by the Diet of Worms, 1521; the Act of Supremacy was partially re-enacted in England, 1559, the Reublic of Guatemala was founded, 1839; the Empire Theatre, London, opened as the Royal London Panorama, 1870; Turkey declared war on Greece, 1897; the comic opera Tom Jones was first produced, London, 1907: Premium Savings Bonds were introduced in Britain, 1956; in Ghana, junior army officers made an unsuccessful attempt to seize pow-

munist Party, 1969; in Cambodia, the civil war ended after the capital, Phnom Penh, surrendered to the Khmer Rouge forces, 1975. Today is the Feast Day of St Aybert, St Donnan and Others, St Innocent of Tortona. St Mappalicus and Others, St Robert of Chaise-Dieu and S Stephen Harding.

David Band A service of thanksgiving for the life

of David Band will be held on Tuesday 14 May at Southwark Cathedral at 10.45am. Friends and colleagues are all welcome.

Dinners Saints and Sinners Club

The Saints and Sinners Club Annual Dinner was held yesterday evening at the Savoy Hotel, London W1. Mr John Mortimer QC, Canon Roger Royle, Mr Cliff Morgan and Mr John Sunley, Chairman of the Club, were the speakers. Mr Sunley installed Mr Gay Kindersley as his successor at the conclusion of the dinner.

Actuaries Company Mr C.W.F. Low, Master, Worshipful Company of Actuaries, accompanied er, 1969; the attempted invasion of

10015D

by the Wardens, Mr M.H. Field and Mr C.R.C. Huwkes, presided at the Annual Banquet held yesterday evening in the Mansion House, London EC4. The Lord Mayor of London, Mr John Chalstrey, accompanied by the Lady Mayoress, Mrs Chalstrey, the Sheriffs and their ladies, was the speaker. The Very Rev Dr H.R. Wyllic and Mr A.D. Gibson also sooke.

Royal Society of Medicine

Professor Ian Isherwood delivered the Jephcott Lecture, "The Imaging Quest - a search for reality" yesterday evening at the Royal Society of Medicine, London W1, Sir Donald Harrison, President of the society, accompanied by Lady Harrison, received the guests at a supper held afterwards. Among those present

Mr and Mrs N.W. Jephcult; Sir Richard and Lady Syltes: Sir Gordon and Lady Wolsten-holme; Sir Gordon and Lady Robson: Sir Christopher Botth; Sir David and Lady Innes Williams; Sir George and Lady Pinker; Sir Christopher Baine.

Appointments

Judge John H. Roberts, to be a member of the Ethnic Minorities Advisory Committee of the Judicial Studies Ms Carol Edwina Taylor, to be a fulltime chairman of Industrial Tribunals, assigned to the London

South Region.

Mrs Caroline Jane Lloyd, to be a fulltime Immigration Adjudicator, designed a special adjudicator. tes Aiden O'Brien Oning, to be a full-time legal member of the Immigration Appeal Tribunal. Mr Ian Stuart Fairwood, to be a dis-

trict judge, on the North Eastern

Schools

St John's School, Leatherhead Summer Term begins today at St John's School, Leatherhead. Mark Glew is Captain of the School and Richard Vosser is Captain of Cricket. The Junior School play, Loot, will be performed on 22, 23 and 24 May, and the ODS production of Abigail's Party will be on 4 and 5 July. Choral Evensong is at 6.30pm on Tuesday 7 May, the Friends of St John's Recital is at 6.30pm on Thursday 6 June and the Summer Concert will be performed on Sunday 30 June at 8pm. Old Johnian Sunday is 30 June - the preacher will be the Rev Martin Francis - and Prizegiving is on Saturday 6 July, when the Guest of Honour will be Lord Carlisle of Bucklow, Mr S.W.

Chubb retires at the end of term af-

ter 35 years as Head of Economics

and Politics.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Duke of Edinburgh opens the Southampton Oceanography Centre. Empress Docks. Southampton; as Colonel-in-Chief, visits the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, Tid-worth, Wiltshire. The Prince of Wales, Visitor, visits the Glasgow School of Art; as Royal Visitor, Scottish Conservation Projects Trust, visits Craigion Cemetery environmental project. Cardonald, Glasgow; and as Visitor, visits Strathclyde University, Glasgow. The Princess Royal, President, the Rural Housing Trust, opens the new scheme developed by the English Rural Housing Association at Mary Cross Close, Wiggington, Hertfordshire; as Patron, Dunn Nutrition Centre, attends a collaboration between the Medical Research Council and Schooks on Dict. Exercise and Long-Term Health, at Hills Road Sixth Form College, Cambridge; and as President, British Olympic Association, attends the Cambridge Appeal Dinner at Trinity College, Cambridge, Princess Michael

London NWS

Changing of the Guard The Household Cavalry Mounted Regment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, Hum; 1st Battelion Welsh Guards mounts the Queen's Guard, at Buckingham Palace. 11.30am, band provided by the Scots

of Kent, President, SSAFA, attends a

farewell dinner for the controller.

Charles Grey, at Apsley House.

Affi Unit Trant Messages
Grotund Assessor
Grotund Assessor
Grotund Assessor
Grotund Stary

Grotund Stary

Grotund Stary

Grotund Stary

Grotund Japan

Lind Grotund Ja

ation te Is-e Out

with non,

e go gree-ng at will

pos-llire

here 1WO ≥ace

arily who ifulvere Eu-

ians

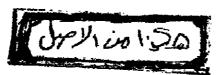
2

ign ite, ir a ler

uid. 1 a at

îm

ew



	unit trusts
Buy Yid 160 of64 8729 e145 1722 of45 14504 e88	Foreign Exchange Rates
5241 (1228 1 2140 (1221 3 2667 (1221 1 7169 (1200 1 7511 (1200	STERLING DOLLAR Spot 1 months 1 mo
373 dpg 3730 dpg 3730 dpg 3730 dpg 3730 dpg 3730 dpg 3730 dpg	Germany 22757 55-8 57-97 15096 28-26 80-76 19000 France 77288 40-18 571-94 51245 64-57 154-154 33946 1619 23750 75-90 221-346 15747 57-64 170-182 1903.13 1903
7027 239	ECU 12172 5-11 45-40 12391 7-8 23-25 05348 Belgum 45769 2-9 34-29 9090 58-48 172-147 20549 Dermark 87875 169-5 411-377 58265 80-40 175-125 38596 Netherlands 25448 63-64 159-175 16873 32-29 86-91 1177 Netherland 05679 9-5 25-20 15582 3-6 8-10 04251
35 35 35 35 35 35 35 35 35 35 35 35 35 3	Normay 98750 16-64 329-233 85144 42-17 10-60 43753 Spat: 92/78 26-35 72-88 72-85 22-37 94-72 833532 83640 1002 9-15 23-94 6752 98-23 280-310 4722 834574 83754 837
1724 500 1726 600	Australia* 1978 2-33 67-85 12702 19-21 39-30 00-94 Hong Kong 1065 101-61 224-170 77349 2-12 15-35 1224 Materia 17754 0-0 0-0 0-0 12502 4-14 60-80 16582 Materia 17754 0-0 0-0 150-25 14706 30-32 88-90 09742 Cont & Ambria 16583 0-0 00-9742 Cont & Ambria 16583 Cont & Ambria 16583 0-0 00-9742 Cont & Am
1968 152 1914 152 1958 522 1938 520 1941 528 1941 538	Singapore 29273 0-0 0-0 14905 41-30 103-88 09344 OTHER SPOT RATES
12777 d 12777 d 12867 d	Country Sterling Dollar Country Sterling Dollar Agenthu 15073 0,9982 Nigeria 155355 83,000 Oman 0,5008 0,3850 0,3850 Oman 0,5008 0,3850
225 025 220 4 1022 458 128 0 128 0 1	Egypt 5085 34066 Portugal 233881 54940
1006 6545 1017 6528 1026 6150 1027 123 1020 625 1020 625	Ingla 515/06 342200 Talwan 40,9751 27,550 Kuman 0,4529 0,5002 UAE 55442 35731 Note Forward male quoted high to low are at a decount core space male; there quoted have to right are at a premium paid to apply material Tooler opinion of a promium paid to apply material Tooler opinion accomposite. For the latest formaps eachange made call 0,951 173 3033. Calle cost 35p per minus (cheap min) 45p other times.
2513 124 2513 124	Tourist Rates
581 153 5035 6535 574 087 863 080 771 086 843 6455	E Buys E
500 730 500 730 500 730	Correcte(Dollars) 18975 Hong Kong(Dollars) 144000 Spain(Peastans) 1840000
500 13 505 22 617 430 1510 17 1510 19 1510 19	Interest Rates
60000000000000000000000000000000000000	Base 600% Dacount 300% Prime 875% Discount 050% France Lombard 500% Discount 550% Belgisth Canada Prime 700% Spain Canada
95.9 CH SAF 6753 S22 TB S521 149 455 645 5584 438	Discount 9,00% Discount 550% O-Day Repo 7,75% Switzerfand Desmark Swedom Discount 150% Advances 2,80% Discount 3,75% Repo (Ase) 7,80% Lombard 425%
8073 256 5822 6236 3263 6656 456 189	Bond Yields Country 5 yr Yield % 10 yr yield % Country 5 yr Yield % 10 yr yield % 10
545 164 3270 6475 066	US 51% 629 576 848 Span 1076 863 1076 928 Japan 67% 209 31% 328 Japan 67% 209 31% 328 Japan 17% 987 1076 987 1076 108 108 108 10% 108 10% 108 10% 108 10% 108 10% 108 10% 108 10% 108 10% 108 10% 108 10% 108 10% 108 10% 108 10% 108 10% 108 10% 108 10% 108 10% 108 10% 108 10% 10% 10% 10% 10% 10% 10% 10% 10% 10%
9673 9694 - 0488 291 9806 291 1825 067 1685 067 7285 058	Figure 51% 571 775 854 EQUIDIT 91% 808 79% 686 Source-HSBC Market Research Year Calculated on local basis. ** Denotes new banchmark Money Market Rates
65 08 54 54 47 09	Description Color
570: 696 2805 6063 525 063 225 153 348 153 955 56	Timescury Negress Dept 10 15 15 15 15 15 15 15
1428 549 1120 24 2002 000 1589 019 8444 4505	Contract Settlement High/Low EstConta Open Interest
940.2 117 1148 478 1852 d194 7805 404	Long Gilt (Jun 98) 105-29 106-04 105-13 56981 123998 Gorman Bond (Jun 98) 96.65 96.89 96.22 157822 195215 J.G.Bond (Jun 98) 11832 118.37 118.23 3433 0 Italian Bond (Jun 98) 110.86 111.27 110.65 46218 50226
1346 000 3388 408 2759 404 3158 4064 3737 6434	3M Sterling (Jun 96) 94.00 94.02 93.96 1223 79724 (Sep 96) 93.86 93.88 93.81 13826 5598 34 Euro Yen (Jun 96) 93.18 93.18 93.17 80 0 (Sep 96) 98.89 98.89 98.89 400 0 0 (Jun 96) 96.78 98.79 98.77 19528 25551 (Sep 96) 98.87 98.68 95.88 28344 242967
405 d001 255 250 (52) d049 1900 180	ECIU (Jun 96) 95.51 95.52 95.58 95.56 97.5 90.1 90.1 90.1 90.1 90.1 90.1 90.1 90.1
840 277 804 6272 858 342 525 05	Liffe FT-SE Index Option
7252 121 7757 0270 10009 ch259	Settlement price: 3824.0 Closing offer price Call/Put Series 3750 3800 3850 3800 Total/vota Apr 77/1 32/6 5/30 1/79 May 104/22 69/37 42/60 21/79
589 007 900 0276 531 6278 907 6357 648 6037	Jun 127/43 85/61 88/84 45/m1 51/83 121/82 94/105 71/132 Commodities
9407 USC 254 OCh 273 CSC 7706 GSD 773 CSC 930 CSC 930 CSC 930 CSC 930 CSC	INDUSTRUAL METALS - London Metal Exchange Shonas Cash 3 mths Volume LME Stocks chg Alaman HG 954-56 1885-1800 80907 78225 + 8150
117 440 570 440 205 328 553 328 288 000	Copper A 2565-67 2550-61 8235 30/025 - 3775 Lead 80+05 799-900 8052 80355 + 700 Michael 8050-8100 8055-90 12006 33636 - 216 Tin 8465-75 6470-80 3722 8075 - 70
771 226 902 159 657 159 133 159	Zinc 1949-4
462 525 6133 500 004	Platinum
184	AGRICULTURAL Coces Coffee Barley Potatoes Potatoes LCE Phore LCE Stone LCE Etome LCE Litome ATA Stone
184 699 182 341 177 341	May 1001 May 1959 May 1330 May 17000 Apr 228 July 1330 July 1952 Sep 17050 July 25500 May 254 Sep 1053 Sep 1853 Nov 11050 Nov 19500 July 254 Vol. 4201 Vol. 5080 Vol. 55 Vol. 100 Vol. 241
165 d 770 d 175 d 177 d 146 148 d 148 159 123	White Sugar
25 435 57 435 58 456	Vol. 1377 Index n/n Vol. 801 Jul 375.25-98750 Seato Other Softs (Agricultural) Source CMS May Make (An3)** Shorne 1485 May(Jul Soya ON; FL/100kg 980
90 650 33 d422 31 d422 33 d422 33 256 32 134	Aprillary Copes (1) Storme 1778 Aprillary Coconst Cil (1) Storme 7500 May Coton (11) Storme 5500 Aprillary Coton (11) Storme 6550 Aprillary Rubber Moon Acording 6430 May May Sunflower Otte Storme 6550 May Rubber MoonArg 3640 Aprillary Groundnut Oil Storme 9050 Center Storme 5500 May Rubber 100 Aprillary Groundnut Oil Storme 9050
\$1 228 48 226 67 4025 45 4321 45 482	Origin: SQuerkEC - many origin - (Philopheanisconesis, "Malaquale "M Europe Source: FT Information/Reviews ENERGY Breat Chede (S/barrel) Gesoll (Sitonne) WT1 Products 1 (Sitonne) IPE 5.30pm "chy Yr ago IPE close "chy fipm Spot OF North West Europe
69 182 Na 1401 Éi 60	May 1940 - 0.74 1858 Apr 178.75 - 5.50 July 200 Reprilte 207/229 July 170.25 18.75 July 2000 Reprilte 203/205 July 170.25 18.75 July 2000 Reprilte 203/205 July 170.25 18.75 July 2000 Reprilte 203/205 July 170.25 18.50 July 170.25 18.50 July 170.25 18.50 July 170.25
67 80 66 80 60 7 60 7 60 8 60 8	*acce 5:30pm previous day "hear ago prioss shour average for seek. Source: CS-London Oil Reports 10pm priose COMMADDITY INDICES *GSC! Indicase Base data +Spot %Day Cbg Dec 31st %Vito d.cbg Veer ago % Yr cbg
24 24 25 26 27 26 88 0.8 82 0.6	Index 1970=100 23.40 +0.03 203.50 +4.97 20.46 +19.25
2 du 29 du 29 du 22 de2 77 de2 85	Precious Metale 1973~100 50058 -048 499.89 +2:19 509.89 -0.68 Source Goldman, Sachs & Co. "GSC) is a technique and servicement of Goldman, Sechs & Co. 1 Close An of 15 April 198
23 622 75 62 19 22 23 65 65 65 65 65 65 65 65 65 65 65 65 65	100 Largest Insurance Funds
	Altru Lie Pri-2 3 Way 6000 Edit Margard 9339 0000 Altru Lie Pri-2 3 Way 6000 Edit Margard 400 423 Altru Margh Internets 9586 2827 May Margh 1940 474 423 Altru Margh Internets 9586 2827 May Margh 1940 474 624 624 624 625 625 625 625 625 625 625 625 625 625
5 358 5 358	AAA Est. Dies Sei 1925 1929 Hornstch Listen 1928 1929 Hornstch Listen 1928 1929 Hornstch Listen 1928 1929 Hornstch Listen 1928 1929 Searchape Markeybrand 1929 1929 Hornstch Listen 1928 1929 1929 Hornstch Listen 1928 1929 1929 1929 1929 1929 1929 1929
5 (276 15 112 16 630 5 068 6 549 10 582 14 (179	Back Hone Managed in S2 5684 5885 Park Managed Gross 5925 5036 Bittannia 4723 4540 Park Mand Fund 5810 5936 Christal Med Fird Supplier 3304 35512 Product Munas Managed 4311 4325 Class Managed 3885 4027 Producted Ann Product Managed 4281 4326 CLAS Managed STASC 4284 4563 Producted Ann Pro
4 42 7 84 7	Compa Namegad A 1001 1767 Royal Hart Op Income Diet 2442 2577 Crown Namegad 6848 7203 Royal Lim Marsahod 450.5 Crown Namegad 450.5 Royal Secretary Compa Namegad 450.5 Crown Namegad 450.5 Royal Secretary Compa Namegad 450.5 Crown Namegad A 1001 1767 1767 1767 1767 Crown Namegad A 1001 1767 1767 1767 1767 Crown Namegad A 1001 1767 1767 1767 1767 Crown Namegad A 1001 1767 1767 1767 Crown Namegad A 1001 1767 1767 Crown Namegad A 1767 Crown Nameg
8 2 290 8 8000	Earth Star Name of San Name of
4 000 6 6550 4 000 7 140 0 227	Stati Treaty 2013 2015
	Harding Assumal Managed
Æ	Hefr Life Gronel Menniged S3 GESB 7059 Sun Life Menniged T0407 Month J Rechnelds MALS Menniged SSS 5700 Sun Life Com Managed 4404. 4536 J Publication Scott Annie Menniged 553 2510 Security Managed 4402. 4536 Gest Managed 553 2510 Security Managed 4402. 4536

Sell Buy Yid

26.1 36.7 000

1974 445.6 000

1976 37.3 46.20

27.3 28.2 430

39.9 45.6 6021

95.37 39.00

27.6 6021

95.37 39.00

27.6 6021

95.37 39.00

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021

27.6 6021 Sell Stocil
Fanel & Comercition
Fanel & Color Acc
Monthly income Plus
Fanel & Color Acc
Monthly income Plus
Fanel & Color Acc
Monthly income Plus
Preference State Acc
Monthly Veld
Hothy Stocil
Hothy Yeld
Hothy Stocil
Hothy Yeld
Hothy General
Life General
Monthly General
Life General
Monthly General
Monthly General
Life General
Monthly General
Life General
Monthly General
Life General
Monthly General
Life Hothy
Life General
Life Life General
Life Life General
Life Life General
Life Life Life Color
Life Life Life | Sept | Stock
For East & Gon
Germany
Frome For
Income For
Incom 왕택되었장점 Gothal recome
Account March
Account March
High Walt

High Walt

High Walt

High Walt

High Walt

And Con the
One of the Con the | CASE | TOTAL | CASE | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | #128 #058 273 260 000 000 046 000 277 #200 \$475 000 | Desire Famil Bernsper Lid | 15-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | 16-25 | | Comment | Leaf | Common | C London, E15-63. 9091 4362 167 9680 9656 1038 5508 3432 248 248 857 857 176 239 248

Anter the 2 Gerch
Anter Smith Con
Control Program
Anter the Anter
Control Program
Anter the Anter
Exercising Mariation
Exercising Mar

4 ----. . .

*** :

ingen er State

· 经有证券

Sur Life Hemopol
Sur Life Hemopol
Sur Life Hemopol
Sur Hemopol
Sur Hemopol
Sur Hemopol
Hemopol

| Sanck | Sant |

De Acaus

I De Aca

| List | Freezer | Bear | COCCOSCIUST | Coccos |

.

Committee Except	5954	622
Committee Except	5955	7157
Committee Except	5955	5000
Committee Except	5000	5000
Committee Excep		

BUSINESS NEWS DESK: tel 0171-293 2530 fax 0171-293 2098

CITY & BUSINESS EDITOR: JEREMY WARNER

National Power takeover fever grips market

Industrial Correspondent

iff

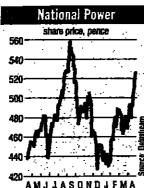
Takeover fever gripped the elec-tricity sector last night amid speculation that National Power, the largest generator, is being targeted for a £7bn-plus bid. Ordinary shares in the company soared by 27p to 517p and the partly paid by 30p to 387p. boosting the company's market worth by £466m to £7.3bn.

City analysts speculated that US utilities, including Southern Company, could be potential predators. A bid for National Power would require the approval of the Government. which retains a golden share in the company. Agreement by ministers to a takeover, partic-"ularly by a foreign group, would almost certainly cause a politibeal furore. It is just over a year since the Government sold its last stakes in National Power and PowerGen for £4bn.

A team from SBC Warburg, the merchant bank which last year advised Southern on its £1.1bn bid for Sweb, was last night locked in meetings and un-

able to comment. Some City analysts said that National Power, headed by John Baker, would be too big a target for Southern on its own but there was also speculation over a potential joint takeover. Some analysts think Southern Electric would be willing to dispose of some of National Power's generators over and above that planned by the company itself.

Within the industry the speculative talk yesterday focused on the arrangement of a rumoured \$12bn (£8bn) loan facility by



ply its size," he added. earlier in the day following reports that Southern Company of the US was close to selling a large stake in South Western Electricity with a view to making further investments.

Bill Dahlberg, Southern's chairman, said it had no intention of losing control at Sweb. which it bought for £1.1bn last year. But he said it would be nority interest "to regain some of our financial investment and then reinvest that on other quality companies like Sweb".

Other names mentioned amid the bid fever included

banks including Barclays de Zoete Wedd and SBC Warburg.

Houston Industries, Pacific Gas and Electric and Mission Energy of the US. One analyst said potential European predators could include Spain's Endesa and Electricité de France. "We are seeing the sort of smoke that we rarely see in this industry without fire. The reason National Power's name has not been in the frame before is sim-The bid flames were fanned

> Mr Dahlberg did not comment on the generation business, although Southern is thought to have been keen at one time to buy power plants being sold by National Power under pressure from the regulator, Professor Stephen Lit-

pany refused to respond to speculation that it might bid for a British company following disposal of the Sweb stake. There was talk in the City earlier that Southern may seek to acquire South West Water, which faces potential rival bids

A big target: John Baker, chairman of National Power (left), and Brian Birkenhead, finance director

tional Power's takeover of The rumours emerged at a Southern and that of Midlands sensitive time for National Pow-Electricity by PowerGen.
Separately, Utilicorp of the
US said it would buy out the remaining 25 per cent of its UK er, which is awaiting the Government's response to a Monopolies and Mergers

Commission report on its prosubsidiary, which has gas marposed takeover of Southern keting joint ventures with sev-Electric of the UK. Ministers eral regional electricity firms. were outraged at the end of last The stake, thought to be worth week following the leak of the about £15m, was owned by a MMC report on the National company called Norland Gas Power takeover. The Economist whose directors included Sir Ian magazine reported that the MMC had recommended that

Comment, page 21

quarter earnings of \$1.01bn

and record revenues of \$15bn,

well above analysts' expecta-

tions. Other contributors to

the Dow's advance were rises in

dence that the US economy was

steadily recovering from its ear-

lier slowdown. A 0.5 per cent

drop in industrial output in

March resulted from the strike

There was additional evi-

Eastman Kodak and IBM.

Woolwich details Robinson claims

NIC CICUTTI

Lawyers for Peter Robinson, the Woolwich chief executive whose recent shock resignation following claims of financial irregularities rocked the society, have received the first documents detailing the allegations against him.

DJ Freeman, solicitors to Mr Robinson, said yesterday the first batch of papers had been handed over by Linklaters & Paines, who act for Woolwich.

Mr Robinson was believed to have met barristers yesterday to prepare his defence against claims that he misused society resources. However, he has resisted calls to appear at the society's annual meeting in London tomorrow, arguing that such a move would be counterproductive for himself and Woolwich.

Conser

It is understood that the documents handed on behalf of Woolwich to DJ Freeman are only the first in a series relating to his case.

More papers are likely to be submitted by Linklaters & Paines in the next few weeks, including a separate report by the accountancy firm KPMG, brought in as external auditors by Woolwich to examine the matter in more detail.

Sources within Woolwich have alleged that Mr Robinson used society gardeners to carry out work on the grounds of his property, in the village of Brasted, Kent, as well as internal decorating work on his £450,000 home. It is also claimed that he wrongly obtained the use of a Range Rover for his family.

Mr Robinson, who was forced to resign suddenly two weeks ago after just three months in his new job, denies the allegations, which he argues are part of a vendetta from disgruntled employees who are aiming to smear him.

He is insisting on compensation for the sudden end of his two-year revolving contract,

tlechild. Mr Dahlberg added by Severn Trent Water and that he did not envisage buying essex Water. Mr Dahlberg had said he saw "advantageous" to sell a mianother UK regional electricity firm "at this point". "an opportunity coming in pret-National Power declined to ty quickly to bring in water business in a country outside the US". comment on the rumours. A **AMJJASONDJEMA** the Government approve Na-

DIANE COYLE

Economics Editor

11 Shares in London celebrated encouraging figures on the economy climbing for the third day running to set another record. The FT-SE 100 index ended the day 34.8 points higher at 3,825.3, helped by a strong start on Wall Street.

Retailers were among the best performers in London. boosted by Monday's upbeat report on sales last month from unemployment, earnings and re-the British Retail Consortium unemployment, earnings and re-tail prices, to be helpful. How-

and good results from the supermarket chain Tesco. Property shares benefited

from brighter news from estate agents, who said March saw the strongest housing market activity for two years.

expected the FT-SE 100 to pass the 3.800 mark before midyear have begun to set their sights on the target of 4,000. Economists expect most of the figures due this week, including

ptimism over economy spurs shares to a record ever, the full-year figures for government borrowing could be disappointing for the gilts mar-ket. It will also scrutinise the minutes released today of the meeting on 7 March between Kenneth Clarke and Eddie Many analysts who had not George for hints about the Bank of England's attitude to

> Investors are reacting to hopes that the economy is improving enough to help the Conservatives start climbing out of the electoral doldrums.

further reductions in the cost of

"There is a feeling that the market was discounting political risks. The FT-SE 100 bears the brunt of the changes in political sentiment," Philip Isherwood, equity strategist at Kleinwort Benson, said.

Robert Barrie at BZW said it was increasingly clear there was a pick-up in the economy that would help corporate profits. "The pause in growth has been rough for some firms, so there could be quite a bounce back in corporate earnings." There were fresh signs yes-

terday of buoyancy in the econ-omy. Optimism among small businesses leapt in the three months to February, according to a quarterly survey of 1,700 small businesses by the office supplier Office World.

The survey's poll of the vot-ing intentions of the small business owners also signalled the first increase in the Conservatives' share since November 1994. It climbed 4 points to 31.7 per cent, with Labour's standing unchanged at 25.5 per cent. Separately, new construction orders jumped 9 per cent in the three months to February comquarter earnings of \$1.01bn pared with the previous three, according to the Department of the Environment. They were 11 per cent higher than the same period a year earlier despite falling in January and February.

Wall Street's strength underpinned the rise in London share prices. The Dow Jones index was more than 14 points higher at 5,607.37 by mid-morning, helped by some strong first-quarter corporate results. They included the car giant per cent.

at General Motors. Adjusting for the strike, output grew 0.3 worth about £300,000 a year. Gas names new Red-faced RJR

Tesco stays top grocer with profit of £681m

Tesco strengthened its position as Britain's leading grocery re-tailer yesterday when it reported a 14.5 per cent surge in profits to £681m, along with a bullish message on current trading and an increase in spending on new stores and refurbish-

Tesco claims that it has increased its share of the UK grocery market from 12 per cent last year to 13.6 per cent, maintaining its lead over Sainsbury's. Sainsbury's has yet to release its figures but had a share of 11.5 per cent last year.
David McCarthy, food retail

analyst at the stockbroker BZW, said the figures proved that the price battle between the supermarkets was really just a phoney war". "We've had price a can. It is continuing to ration wars on turkeys, bananas, petrol and now baked beans. But Tesco's margins have only fallen by a fraction. If prices are falling on some products they are being increased elsewhere to make up for it. There ain't

no price war out there." Tesco, chaired by Sir Ian MacLaurin, reported that, excluding new store openings, its sales had increased by almost 9 per cent last year. In the five weeks to Easter sales continued to rise strongly by 7 per cent.

5613.15

+20.23

However, the petrol price war is causing some damage and will cost Tesco up to £30m this year as the company moves to match the Esso PriceWatch campaign. David Malpas,

Tesco's managing director, said: "Our feeling is that the present price position will continue for another 18 months or so and it will be uncomfortable. But we intend to be one of the people left standing at the end of it and hope to emerge in a stronger position. We won't be beaten on price." Elsewhere, the BSE scare on beef has cost Tesco up to £10m so far on discounted stock and the cost of increasing supplies of other meats.

The baked beans battle, with the price of a can falling to 3p, is proving a significant loss-maker as Tesco buys its beans at 14p shoppers to four tins per customer to maintain stocks. "It's a very silly situation and we hope it won't continue for too long." Mr Malpas said.
As well as reporting that its

Clubcard loyalty scheme had now signed up 8.5 million members since its launch last year, Tesco unveiled an aggressive store opening programme.

It will open 24 new stores this year including 10 superstores, up to six city-centre Tesco Metros and six branches of Tesco

38<u>32</u>08 2.17

19734.70 0.71†

2253.88 1.84†

11594.99 10073.39 3.30†

21883.04



Sir lan MacLaurin: Sales up by nearly 9 per cent

Express, the new format where ital expenditure will rise above a petrol station has a conve-nience store attached. Mr Malpas said the Metro stores were profitable in spite of the higher rents in prime locations. He added that the Express format appeared popular with customers although its performance had been clouded by the petrol price war. Seven stores will be opened in Europe. Cap-

Wilson(C) Hidgs 180 10 5.9

£700m this year, ahead of ex-pectations and higher than last year's figure of £649m. Profits of £681m, excluding a £6m loss on disposal of fixed assets, were struck on a 20 per cent increase in group sales to £13bn in the year to 24 February. The divi-dend rose by 11.6 per cent to 9.6p. The shares fell 3p to 287p. Investment column, page 22

service chief

MARY FAGAN Industrial Correspondent

The changes sweeping through British Gas continued vesterday with the appointment of a new chief for its service business a division that was heavily criticised for its performance during the winter freeze.

Roger Wood, who until now has been managing director of Matra Marconi, replaces David Wells, who is to retire early from the company after 27 years. British Gas said that there was no payoff for Mr Wells, who is 55 and who will work alongside Mr Wood until the early autumn this year.

Earlier this year British Gas came under fire for leaving customers waiting for days to have repairs carried out, even where they had paid around £100 for "three-star" service contracts. Customers who believed they were in entitled to priority treatment were left without heating during the freeze, prompting an attack from the Gas Consumers Council. which said it had warned well in advance that the problem

might occur. The appointment of a new managing director from outside the gas industry will be seen as a further attempt by British Gas to repair its damaged image. British Gas said Mr Wood had "wide experience in competitive customer-focused businesses" including ICL, the UK computer company owned by Fujitsu of Japan, and STC, the

telecommunications group. During his time at STC he worked with Roy Gardner, British Gas director responsible for business trading operations, who is viewed increasingly as a key figure in the management

Mr Gardner said: "David Wells has done an excellent job in establishing British Gas Service as a separate business within British Gas. We now look to Roger Wood to build on that achievement and carry the busi-ness forward."

British Gas has suffered a series of problems and public re-lations fiascos since the end of 1994. Its fall from grace in the eyes of customers has shocked both the company and City an-alysts. British Gas has blamed the drop in standards of service on its radical restructuring to meet the changing shape of the UK gas market.

The group now faces the prospect of domestic competition starting with a pilot area in the South-west on 29 April. Clare Spottiswoode, the industry watchdog, has warned that British Gas will have to act to reassure customers to prevent them leaving the company in large numbers as competitors come on stream.

So far only about 30,000 people from an area covering 500,000 households have opted to leave British Gas.

raider retreats

DANIELLE ROBINSON

Bennett LeBow, the US investor and corporate raider, yesterday staged an embarrassing 11th-hour climb-down in his six-month battle to split RJR Nabisco Holdings Corporation into separate food and tobacco businesses.

He was set to team up with fellow corporate raider Carl Icahn to launch a bitter proxy fight at today's RJR annual meeting. Mr LeBow said he called off his fight after failing to win enough votes to elect his board nominees.

His plan was to oust current RJR board members, replace them with people sympathetic to his and Mr Icahn's views and then spin off Nabisco, the food That would have left RJR

with the tobacco company RJ Reynolds, which he then wanted to merge with cigarette manufacturer Liggett Group, a subsidiary of his company Brooke Group, of which he is chairman.

But as RJR Nabisco braced itself for one of its most volatile shareholder meetings, Mr LeBow said yesterday. "Al-though this is disappointing, it comes as no surprise. We always knew we were facing an uphili battle.

The news is a big coup for RJR, which broke records in

leveraged buyout when KKR took it over for \$25bn. Mr Icahn and Mr LeBow together control about 19 million shares, equal to about 7 per cent of RJR, making them the second-largest shareholders.

Both men are notorious for buying up strategic stakes in companies in a bid to force management to execute actions that benefit their own business objectives.

This time, however, neither seem to have any specific plans regarding RJR, apart from con-tinuing to loudly voice their opinions. Mr LeBow attempted to redeem himself yesterday by arguing that his six-month fight with RJR forced the company to restore some shareholder rights and announce an increased dividend and a modest share repurchase pro-gramme. "It's no doubt that without the pressure we applied ... managers would not have

gone that far," he said. He said he would continue to demand that RJR spin off Nabisco now. "We still believe in a Nabisco spin-off and we are still convinced that it can and should be done," he said. Last January RJR floated a

19.5 per cent stake in Nabisco. The move was structured to allow RJR to spin off the remaining Nabisco shares at a future date on a tax-free basis.

However, the RJR board will not consider a complete spin-1989 as the world's largest off until 1997 or 1998.

every wee.
Section IV
Devices in look
Dages, new
Dages, new
Day and an existing section of the contract contrac

UNIT TRUST PRICES

Starting today (on page 19) a fuller list of unit trust prices will appear on Wednesdays as well as on Saturdays.



NOW IN THE NORTH **SEE PAGE 26** TODAY'S LEGAL **APPOINTMENTS SECTION**

i		STOC	KMARI	ETS			
FT-SE 100		Dow J	ones*		kkei		
3790		5600		72	00	1	
9750		- 5560-	/	- 2	70	4	
3670		— 5620 — — 5480 —		205	OC.		
3830	FN	- 5440-i	, , , ,	100	00 - 1 - 1 - 1		
Ter knes teles & gapt	el 1200 hours		<u> </u>	-	†R/\$\$*1	hali lale Talk	•
lutices							
ladez	Gose	ay's change	Change (%)	1995/96 664	1995/96 (20	YSALD(X)	. <u> </u>
FTSE 100	3825.30	+34.80	+0.9	3825.30	3639.50	3.88	U
FTSE 250	4458.50	+41.80	+0.9	4458.50	4015.30	3.33	<u>U</u>
FTSE 350	1925.70	+17.70	+0.9	1925.70	1816.60	3.76	<u>Jz</u>
FT Small Can	2143 90	±13 53	+0.6	2143.90	1954.06	3.02	l G

		I N	TERES	T RATES		
Short 6-10 6-20 6-00 6-00 6-00	sterling*	Z	M mediu 85 65 84 83 91		US long bo	
Money Mar	iet Rates		Bood Yiel	ds*		I
late.	i Morth	1 Year	Hedius Bo		Long Board	(%)tear Ago
		1 Kar 6 31			Long Bond 8.14	(Xi)tear Ago 8,33
index.	i Mostu		Hedau Bo	el(%) Year Ago		
UK_	1 Month 5.94	6 31	Hediaus Bo	8.32	8.14	8.33
UK US	1 Mostls 5,94 5.38	6 31 5.94	8.04 6.49	8.32 7.03	8.14	8.33
UK US Japan	5.94 5.38 0.47 3.31	6 31 5.94 1.06	8.04 6.49 3.29	8.32 7.03 3.19	8.14 6.81	8.33
UK US Japan Germany	5.94 5.38 0.47 3.31	6 31 5.94 1.06 3.31	8.04 6.49 3.29 6.40	8.32 7.03 3.19	8.14 6.81	8.33
UK US Japan Germany	5.94 5.38 0.47 3.31	6 31 5.94 1.06 3.31	8.04 6.49 3.29 6.40	8.32 7.03 3.19 7.04	8.14 6.81 - 7.15	8.33
US Japan Germany "Reschaark I	5.94 5.38 0.47 3.31 befores	6 31 5.94 1.06 3.31 Mal	8.04 6.49 3.29 6.40	8.32 7.03 3.19 7.04	8.14 6.81 - 7.15	8.33 7.39

1.51 1.52 1.51 1.50 1.49 W			227 225 220 221 2.18 2.17		165— 162— 162— 161— 160— 159—	171 F	
Pound				Dollar			
	Test eraby	Chings	Year Ago		Testerday	برووق	Nave Ages
(London)	1,5082	+0.04c	1.6128	£_(London)	0.6630	-0.02	0.6200
(N York)‡	1,5075	0.15c	1,8159	£ (N York)‡	0.6633	+0.06	
DM (London	2.2767	-0.06pt	1,3677	DM (London	1.5096	-0.08af	
F (London)	163 119	-Y0.284	131 <u>.476</u>	¥ (London)	108.155	-Y0.22	81,520
E_index	83.6	unch	84.1	\$_1#dgx	96.8	-0.1	85.9
		(THER IN	IDICATORS			
	Vesterday	Bay's che	Year Age	k	عايا ط	t Yr Ago	Next Figs
Did Brent S	19,50	-2.33	18.35	RPI 150	9+2.7nc	146 9	18 Apr

392,30 -0.7 393.90 GDP

CURRENCIES

ic Is-

лоп,

pos-llfire

iwo

nost

PRESIDES ENDER PRESIDENT

Robinson

to sell this deal to a

sceptical Parliament'

Power by courtesy of good ol' Atlanta, Georgia

tious lot. But have they the stomach - or the money - to mount a takeover bid for Britain's largest power generator, National Power? That was the buzz in the stock market last night - a £7.5bn bid for National Power from Southern Company of the US. Sounds ridiculous, doesn't it? Surely the Government would never wear it? With no approach yet made to National Power, which is working on plans to renew its bid for the rather smaller Southern Electric of the UK, nor on the face of it would the

But just listen to this. Where there's a will there's a way. Properly presented, as a genuine merger to create a new world-class trans-Atlantic company in power generation and distribution, it might just about be possible to sell this deal to a sceptical Parliament. Everyone else is merging, growing bigger and going global. Why confine power generation to its narrow domestic market?

Capitalised at more than \$15bn, Southern Company of the US could certainly afford to bid, highly geared though utilities tend to be in the US. But plainly it needs to tread carefully. If it were to charge in with a hostile takeover, it probably wouldn't stand a chance. This is a government desperate to hang on to power for as long as it takes for that elusive feel-good factor to show through in the polls. Ministers are hardly going to hang on to power for as long as it takes for

much if more than a quarter of Britain's cenerating capacity ends up in American hands. This government's view of these things has long been the purist one that provided the utilities are properly run and regulated, it doesn't really matter where they are owned and by whom. However, with the Govern-ment's parliamentary majority virtually non-existent, ideology is not the guiding factor.

Labour MPs would not be the only ones throwing up their hands in horror. There would be pienty of Little Englander Tories joining them. Quite how the Government would choose to exercise its golden share in these circumstances is anyone's guess. To make this deal work at all, therefore, Southern has to sell it as a genuine partnership, with a real and very senior role for British management in the merged company. Could it be made to work? Much stranger and more difficult transactions than this one have. So why not? The balls are rolling. All depends on whether National Power's John Baker is prepared to play.

PFI critique is a familiar one

of a financial nightmare in the making almost too good for a bruiser like Sir Alastair to miss. If he did bring his crisis management skills to bear again he would find himself on familiar territory - trapped between duplicitous ministers on the one hand and whingeing building contractors on

the other, with MPs sniping from the rocks. The latest critique of the PFI from the Commons Treasury Committee journeys along a familiar road. Despite one curious and out-of-context reference to the PFI as "very imaginative and laudable", the MPs make it pretty plain that it will be time for the concrete overshoes sooner rather than later unless things start to go right.

There are two schools of thought about

the PFI, both of which get a good airing in the committee's report. One is that the PFI will fail miserably to live up to expectations, leaving an embarrassing and large hole in capital spending plans for this government or, more probably, its successor to pick up. The other is that the PFI succeeds beyond

everyone's wildest dreams and results in a deferred public spending binge of such huge and yet unquantifiable proportions that it would bring a blush to the face around at the Building Employers Confederation. The beauty of the PFI is that it brings pri-

vate sector efficiency to public sector pro-curement in a way that almost certainly

because instead of paying to get things built, the state pays for them to be run.

This in turn skews investment decisions because projects are selected more on the basis of profitability than need. There is no reason why the profit motive and planned long-term investment in the infrastructure cannot co-exist and produce the right result.

The problem, as the MPs point out, is that no one will know until either the Isle of Wight has been turned into a penal colony because nobody is building prisons or conversely half the country is incarcerated in shiny new cells courtesy of Michael Howard and over-zealous private contractors. With a choice between the PFI fizzling out after all the hype or storing up a public deficit problem of mind-boggling proportions for the next generation, it is easy to see which way things will go. It will not be the first time a government has mortgaged the future.

A simple idea watered down

By far the most interesting idea in yes-terday's consultative document from the DTI on shareholders' rights came from the National Association of Pension Funds, which has proposed making it easier for pen-sion funds to appoint speakers on the floor

Those good of boys from Atlanta, Georgia, the people who took over South Western Electricity last year, are an ambitions lot. But have they the storage last, they may not care very found to the storage last that the storage last year, are an ambitions lot. But have they the storage last year, are an ambitions lot. But have they the storage last year, are an ambitions lot. But have they the storage last year, are an ambitions lot. But have they the storage last year, are an ambitions lot. But have they the storage last year, are an ambitions lot. But have they the storage last year, are an ambitions lot. But have they the storage last year, are an ambitions lot. But have they the storage last year, are an ambition last year, are an ambitions lot. But have they the storage last year, are an ambition last year, are an ambitions lot. But have they the storage last year, are an ambition last year, are an ambition last year. nee companies - run by big fund managers to hold shares on behalf of their pension fund clients - to appoint more than one representative to speak from the floor, because of difficulties with the Companies Act. Yet that nominee company may be responsible for shares owned by many different sets of pension fund trustees.

A change in the law to make it easier for the nominee company to appoint multiple representatives to speak at the AGM on behalf of the beneficial owners of the shares would give individual pension funds and their trustees much greater access to the floor of the meetings. Instead of a big fund management group making an anodyne contribution - if it says anything at all - the trustees of client funds would be able to send their own people in to speak. Initiatives like this, giving the real owners of institutional money a greater say, are a move in the right direction for shareholder democracy.

As for the rest of the document, unfortunately it shows how easily the best Whitehall minds can water down a simple idea. The Employment Select Committee wanted companies to be made to pay for shareholder resolutions at annual meetings. The DTI has come up with a yes, but... It thinks resolutions should be included with annual report mailings to save costs of up to £100,000 for a big shareholder register. Not much good if your resolution has been

Conservative MPs attack public finance initiative

MICHAEL HARRISON

A Conservative-dominated committee of MPs yesterday launched a scathing attack on the Government's Private Finance Initiative and called on the Chancellor to re-think the cornerstone of the scheme that no capital spending projects be approved unless they have been considered for PFI

The Commons Treasury Committee also voiced concern that the PFI may not meet its target of funding £14bn worth of public projects by 1999 - jeopardising scores of health, transport and education programmes.

Despite fresh measures announced two weeks by Michael Jack, the Financial Secretary, to that it would bring in addition- should now consider scrapping makes private profits."

They expressed particular concern that the PFI could end up distorting investment decisions and making long-term planning of the infrastructure more difficult because the private sector would select projects on the basis of profitability, not

The MPs also warned that the PFI could result in public spending running out of control because of the way private contractors fund the capital cost of projects and then receive payments from the Government for running and maintenance.

The PFI was launched in 1992 with a pledge by the then-Chancellor, Norman Lamont,

said it had become obvious that the PFI was being used to replace public spending. According to the Government's leads to the initiative being latest forecasts, public sector capital spending will fall by £2.5bn between this year and 1998/9 while PFI spending is projected to rise to £2.6bn by

The MPs said, however, that the Government's projections of PFI spending were "optimistic" and added: "If there is a serious shortfall in the PFI projections, it will be difficult to provide money from public capital budgets to fill the gap."

One of the MPs' key recommendations is that the Treasury

strengthen the PFI, the MPs levelled a series of criticisms at the initiative.

al private funds to supplement public capital spending.

But in their report the MPs plore PFI funding before giving ernment departments to exthe go-ahead to any capital

project. Critics have claimed that this clogged up considering pro-jects that are clearly unsuitable for private funding while important programmes, particularly hospital projects, are held

Clive Betts, a Labour member of the committee, said: "One of our biggest worries is that the only schemes which may go ahead are ones that the private sector will fund. That means decisions about public spending priorities are being taken, not in the political arena, but on the basis of what



Michael Jack: Measures to strengthen PFI

DTI proposes increased rights for shareholders

PETER RODGERS **Business Editor**

The Government yesterday proposed giving shareholders rights to put resolutions to annual meetings at the company's expense, but made it clear that the rights would be curbed to prevent disruption to business at annual meetings.

from the Department of Trade

and Industry also outlined proposals to make it easier for pension funds to appoint representatives to speak at annual meetings. In the present state of the law there are a series of technical difficulties. which were pointed out to the DTI by the National Associa-tion of Pension Funds, which asked for an amendment of sec-

A consultative document tion 375 of the Companies Act. The DTI said that one effect

of changing the act in the way suggested by the NAPF would be to benefit the increasing numbers of individual shareholders who use the services of nominee companies, a result of the spread of electronic settlement. These shareholders would also find it easier to appoint representatives to speak

at annual meetings. The DTI consultative document said one drawback was

that a change in the law would allow corporate shareholders of all kinds to appoint multiple representatives at meetings in order to carry votes on a show of hands. But the document suggested that this would be out-

eighed by the advantages.
The DTI was responding to a recommendation by the Commons Select Committee on Employment, which said: "We recommend that the Companies

shareholders' resolutions, where they are supported by a sufficient number of shareholders and are limited in length, to be circulated by the company to all shareholders without cost." But the DTI made clear that the full imple-

mentation of this proposal would be expensive and difficult to carry out in practice. Questions it asked were:

Act is amended to require How could the timetable for circulating papers for agms be made known to shareholders, how could the costs of circulating resolutions be kept to a minimum, and what safeguards should there be against the disruption of business at agms?

One of the principal concerns was to avoid forcing companies to spend up to £100,000 printing and posting shareholders' resolutions ahead of the agm.

• Citicorp, the second-largest bank in the US, announced a disappointing 10 per cent increase in profits in the first quarter of this year, to \$914m (£600m) from \$829m over the same period in 1995. George Salem, analyst at Gerard Klauer Mattison & Co, said: "These earnings don't look terrific. The bottom line is OK, it's how they got there that isn't." Securities trading revenue fell 14 per cent to \$295m, after a heavy drop in foreign exchange revenues. Losses from the bank's US credit card business rose 40 per cent to \$467m. However, consumer banking profits rose 11 per cent to \$513m, while corporate banking earnings were up 18 per cent to \$469m.

 Adair Turner, director-general of the Confederation of British Industry, said restoring the "feel-good factor" depended on equipping people to cope with job insecurity. Better education and training was needed to give them employability for life even if they could not be sure of a job for life.

 Tie Rack, the tie and scarves retailer, plans to open 50 new stores this year, mostly in Europe as it seeks to reduce its dependence on the mature UK market. Only four or five of the new stores will be in the UK. The 379-strong chain announced a 7 per cent increase in profits to £7.9m on sales up 15 per cent at £96.6m. The American division made its first profit since 1987.

Investment Column 22

 Asda is lodging a complaint with the European Commission in its bid to have price maintenance on non-prescription medicines declared illegal. The company claims the price-fixing infringes

• Norwich Union, one of the UK's largest mutual insurers, confirmed yesterday that its is to introduce a rule change to its annual meeting in May allowing it to set a cut-off date for new policyholders if it decides to seek a stock market flotation. However, NU's group chief executive, Alian Bridgewater, said the rule change should not be interpreted as implying that de-mutualisation would definitely go ahead.

 Chelsea Building Society has closed to new members all accounts which could be opened with less than £2,500 after several branches ran out of passbooks because of the rush to open new accounts. The minimum for membership was previously £1,000. Leeds & Holbeck has doubled the amount needed to open a membership account to £1,000, but hopes to reduce it again once conversion mania subsides.

• The board of Union Bank of Switzerland yesterday saw off an attempt by the dissident shareholder, Martin Ebner, to block the nomination of the new chairman. Former chief executive Robert Studer was elected at the AGM by an absolute majority, defeating Mr Ebner's campaign to force a change in management.

IIS WEEK IN THE INDEPENDE

This week and every week, Section Two has a new look with more. pages, new features. a daily radio column and an expanded istings section providing Britain's most comprehensive daily guide to goil out.

or Monday

A new regular section, Family Life, that deals with the interests and problems of parents and children. Julie Myerson's column also focuses en home life Plus: a new series — Do we need? — Which challenges

the icons of modern Britain
And every, Monday unrivalled coverage of the
expanding world of information technology in our
Network pull-dut section.

on Tresday

A 24-page tabloid section with all the action from the weekend's sporting action. Plus: the Monday interview in which a leading figure comes under the microscope, an unbeatable results service, gossip, speculation and fact from behind the scenes and the best in sports

leath: how wearing a virtual reality helmet could help care phobias and other psychological problems: Plus flaty nails are not simply a problem for the vain

but a sign of ill-health, so what can be done about them? Also on Tuesday, fashion, architecture, visual

Bridget Cones's dany continues to shrohicle the accounters and exquisite endograssments in the life section sand smost read spinster.

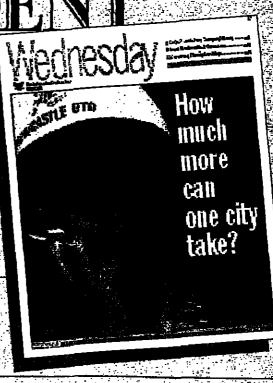
and law. In our back pages, Martin Newell, Britain's leading rock poet, and Neil Kerber, one of the country's funniest cartoonists, present their views of the modern world.

All our regular features, including Virginia honside's Dilemmas, John Walsh's column; plus film, education

and graduate plus. In the back pages, William Hartston's history of the world in 101/2 inches

4Seven - a new 20-page pull-out and keep Mertainment and listings section. Including a somplete day-by-day planner for the week ahead, plus

seven-day TV, radio and satellite listings; ticket offers and informed comment on the week's highlights. Plus: eight pages of pop and classical music



Mary Mary Mary Mary The second second second

Tesco explodes price war myth

that all its rivals, apart from the evergreen Asda, have looked pretty pedes trian by comparison. Yesterday's figures continued the story with figures some of its rivals - particularly Sainsbury – would kill for.

It is hard to argue with a 14.5 per cent increase in profits to £681m and like-for-like sale increases of almost 9 per cent for the year to 24 February. Even with a petrol price war, a BSE scare in beef and a silly season on baked beans, like-for-like sales are up 7 per

cent in the five weeks to Easter. Though the petrol battle will cost Tesco £30m this year and may yet prove a larger problem if it drags on. Tesco has still held its operating margin at 6.2 per cent. This indicates that in spite of all the well-publicised "price wars", on everything from bananas to turkeys, prices are simply being increased elsewhere to offset the damage.

In addition to a variety of customer service schemes Tesco is scoring points by continuing to invest in back-office technology which releases staff who can then be deployed where it really counts - out on the shop floor.

ni

iff

na:

aı

The Tesco bulls say that the company's innovative management will con-tinue to dream up fresh wheezes whenever the going gets tough and therefore keep itself one step ahead. The UK business looks particularly strong, with operating profits up by 18 per cent. The drag on profits is the expansion in to central Europe, where seven new stores will open in the current year. In the UK sales densities in new store openings are at record levels, which appears to disprove the market saturation theory - and a further 24 new stores will open this year.

But amid all the hullabaloo there are concerns, which were reflected in a share price down another 3p yesterday

Some analysts are concerned about Tesco's future earnings growth prospects and a change in the dividend policy announced vesterday which links the payment to earnings rather than rising progressively, as before. The City is also nervous about the possibility of an acquisition, though management says its focus is on organic

What is clear is that this is going to prove another interesting year for the supermarkets. While Tesco and Asda remain the darlings of the sector, all eyes are on Sainsbury to see if it can recapture past glories.

While NatWest Securities is forecasting £721m for the current year. BZW has upgraded to £735m and foresees further upgrades if the petrol spat

Tesco has been on a roll in the supermarket battle for such a long time now $THE\ INVESTMENT\ COLUMN$

EDITED BY MAGNUS GRIMOND

abates. This puts the shares on a forward rating of 13. Though Tesco is an impressive management story, the shares are unlikely to perform any spectacular tricks in the short term. Hold.

Boosey tunes up for growth

Despite being one of the best-known names in music publishing, Boosey & Hawkes had been largely neglected by City institutions until quite recently. That has changed as the group's un-blemished profit record has become established. Profits have grown steadily since Richard Holland climbed aboard as chief executive seven years ago, ris-ing from £2.46m in 1989 to £6.17m in 1995 after last year's 21 per cent in-crease reported yearday. Since the beginning of 1995, the shares have outperformed the rest of the stock market by 68 per cent, after a further 43p

rise yesterday to a new peak of 698p. The price was spurred last year when the European Union harmonised come from the rapidly growing Far copyright periods to 70 years. That de-

5-year record

Turnover (Ebn)

cision, ratified by Parliament in December, extended copyrights in the UK and some other European countries by 20 years and gave a new lease of life to copyrights controlled by Boosey. Long-dead composers such as Rachmaninoff, Delius and Elgar will come back under the company's wing.

Boosey can take more than £1,000

a night from a well attended opera at Covent Garden at which one of its pieces is used, quite apart from recording rights and sheet music sales. The group managed to squeeze juicy margins of 21 per cent out of the publishing business last year. This year should benefit from further margin expansion, although earnings will be held back by reorganisation at Bote & Bock, the German music publisher acquired ear-

Most of the growth last year came from Boosey's instruments business, which saw underlying profits jump 14 per cent to £4.18m. Concentration on margins and additional funds from the Lottery directed at brass bands in the UK boosted the business, but in the long term the excitement is likely to

10.1

Pre-tax profits (£m) Earnings per share (pence)	545 18.1	558 18.6	435 15.2	551 18.9	675 22.2
Dividends per share (pence)	6.3	7.1	7.75	. 8.6	9.6
Market share		l pen	are pric	e	
12 10 8		340			
4 - 3 - 1 - 1 -	08	260		H	шедуер

7.6

8.6

lesco : at a glance

Market value: £6.2bm, share pribe 287p

share in the US. Victory in Boosey's long-running \$200m claim against Walt Disney would transform the group, but the case remains bogged down in the US legal system for now. Profits of more than £7m this year would put the shares on a heady forward multiple of over 30 and with US publisher Carl Fischer in effect sitting on over 50 per cent, they are bard to get hold of. A firm hold none the less.

Tie Rack keeps it tight

There is nothing Roy Bishko hates more than people describing his beloved Tie Rack as a niche retailer. He hates the term with a vengeance, since it lumps his company with all those former stars of the 1980s such as Sock Shop, many of which have fallen on hard times. His view is that Tie Rack is a cautiously run, well-managed retailer that happens to focus on neckware (ties and scarves to you and me).

It is plainly an overreaction, but you can see his point. While other 1980s "niche retailers" have fallen by the way-side. Tie Rack has been motoring strongly. Its shares, for example, have risen from 22p in 1991 to 165p, even after yesterday's 5p fall, and have enjoyed a meteoric rise in the past 12

Yesterday saw another solid if unspectacular set of results. Profits of £7.9m were a 7 per cent improvement on last time but hid a range of different performances. In the UK, where Tie Rack has 169 of its 379 stores, profits fell as a result of the hot summer and tough trading conditions. Like-for-like sales were flat. But the US business, which now has 63 stores, made its first profits since 1987.

As the UK market reaches maturity, Tie Rack sees most of its profit growth coming from overseas, particularly in Europe. It operates in 26 countries and will open 50 new stores this year, the same as in 1995.

The Rolling Luggage Company, a new format that started trials last year, will be expanded gradually from its current three outlets. The expansion is backed by net cash of almost £14m. Although steady growth can be ex-

pected, analysts were reining back Central costs are set to rise for the

second year running as the company adapts its systems to cope with a larger empire. Nat West expects profits of £8.7m this

year, which puts the shares on a forward rating of 16. Worth holding.

Where there's smoke, there's cattle-burning

CITY DIARY

JOHN WILLCOCK

Pooh, what a pong. Fledgling Buckingham-based manufacturer Environmental Technol ogy Research is on tenterhooks. Like most people it doesn't know what the Government's latest thinking on slaughtering and Mad Cow Disease is. The company's Steven Feldman says this is important since it makes metering devices for chimneys which measure how much dust and smoke parti-cles are emitted. In these environmental times, there are strict rules on what can be thrown into the atmosphere. If loads of new cow incinerators have to be built, to burn the mad cows, ETR is quids in. If not, it will have to stick to crematoria. It already has a quarter of the UK market.

spin doctors Financial Dynamics after two-and-a-half years, to join rivals Gavin Anderson. The former editor of the Daily Telegraph Questor column helped to advise Smith & Nephew and Burmah Castrol while at FD. Jeff Randall, former City editor of the Sunday Times who joined FD last year, has also recently left, to return to the paper. Headhunters have apparently been interested in the firm's talent.

Marc Popiolek is leaving City

The traditional image of small business owners is that of "movers and shakers in their local communities, active in local politics, community and social activities.7 Office World's latest quarterly Small Business Survey brands this a myth. When you might have expected the butcher, baker and plumber to be down the Rotary Club or running the local Conservative office, most in reality prefer to go to the cinema or theatre. The survey finds that sports activities were also important with over a third of business owners. So at least they are still down the golf



No elephants, please, we're British: Xenophobic Brits may think that Johnny Foreigner has lots of funny habits, but they should hear what the Chinese think about the Brits. The latest Overseas Jobs Express quotes the China Trade News on how to behave when travelling to the UK to do business. "When dealing with the British there are certain taboos and superstitions it is necessary to understand.

"Elephants are taboo to the British - if you are exporting goods you must ensure that they do not carry any pictures of elephants on trademarks or packaging. Horseshoes however are considered lucky."

The correspondent goes on: "When eating with the English, you must make every effort to avoid making any noise by knocking china and cutlery together. Also, meetings of 13 peo ple are out of the question, as it is an unlucky number." The article concludes by advising visitors to remember that Britain is a country of animal-lovers and to make a point of saying a few words of appreciation to pet owners about their animals. Like "nice goldfish."

after £220m reshuffle

course. Interest in political activities was a mere 5 per cent. John Major really has

The Italians love nattering on their mobile phones so much that the Italian government was forced recently to place screening material on the outside of its Parliament building, to block such phone conversations and ensure at

least some work got done. This story is told with a mix of amusement and pride by Francesco Caio, the 38-yearold chief executive of Omnitel Pronto Italia, the smaller of Italy's two mobile compa-

MAGNUS GRIMOND

nies. In the months since Omnitel launched last December, it has gained 100,000 subscribers. By comparison, Orange managed in the first three months of its UK launch to attract a quarter of that number.

Ominitel's progress is of es-pecial interest to Olivetti. Carlo De Benedetti's troubled computer giant, since the latter owns 41 per cent of the new company. Olivetti yesterday announced net loss-es for 1995 of a mere-1.598 trillion (yes, trillion) lire, or £670m. No wonder Signor Caio is interested in floating off Omnitel.

In Brief

• Peptide Therapeutics, the fledgling biotechnology group, announced pre-tax losses increased from £2.72m to £3.61m for the year to December. The group, which raised £24m in a stock market flotation in November, had net cash of £27m at the end of December after a cash outflow that was said to be on target at £4.4m for the year. Peptide said its marketing collaboration with Mochida Pharmaceutical was developing well and licensing and technology agreements were under discussion.

 Automotive Precision Holdings said the expected reduction in its North American and European automotive markets had materialised, but this had been more than compensated for by orders for additional component ranges, mostly from existing customers. Its areas of expertise, such as power steering, vehicle air conditioning and fuel injection systems, continued to outperform the market, the group said. With growth set to continue, Automotive is planning to add to its manufacturing space at Tonbridge in Kent and expects to strengthen its management team this year. Pre-tax profits rose 10 per cent to £6.1m in the year to December and a final dividend of 3.3p raises the annual total by two-

 S Jerome said unseasonally warm weather last October and November had slowed the expected order intake, and that turnover in the apparel business for the first quarter had been flat as a result. However, it is now apparent that orders were merely post-poned and the forward order book at the end of the March is "encouraging". Meanwhile, the upholstery business is showing steady growth, the group said. Pre-tax profits were up 31 per cent to £951,000 in the year to December, with earnings per share rising a fifth to 7.7p. The final dividend is 1.5p, making 2.25p for the year, up from 1.5p in 1994.

	COMPANY RESULTS				
	Tornover £	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend	
Anlamative Precision (F)	24.05m (20.4m)	6.1m (5.55m)	10.1p (9.1p)	5p (3p)	
Boosey & Hawkes (F)	87.1m (82.7m)	6 17m (5 09m)	20.3p (17p)	7p (5.9p)	
Cobban (F)	227 7m (211.4m)	29.8m (22.8m)	26.23p (19.26p)	9.65p (8.32p)	
Gradus Group (F)	26.39m (22.6m)	3.63m (3.13m)	13.48p (12.05p)	4.8p	
S Jerume & Sons (F)	28.54m (26,85m)	0 95m (0.73m)	7.7p (9.2p)	2.25p (1.5p)	
Poptide Therapactics (F)	0.16m (0.05m)	-3 6m (-2.7m)	-20.2p (-20.8p)		
Saftire (F)	212.7m (178m)	-2.3m (2.8m)	-1.4p (3.6p)	0,1p	
Tesso (F)	13bn (10.9bn)	875m (551m)	22.2p (18.9p)	9.6p (8.6p)	
Tie Rack (F)	96.6m (83.9m)	7.92m (7.41m)	9.87p (9.34p)	2.75p (2.25p)	
(F) - Roal (i) - Interes.	(M) - Nine montes				

Reuters sits on cash mountain | Redland set to expand

MARY FAGAN Industrial Correspondent

Reuters yesterday disapppointed the City by failing to deliver confirmation about the long-awaited return of surplus cash to shareholders. Sir Christopher Hogg, chairman, asked for "patience" while the board examined "all options" on the distribution of funds.

Speaking at the annual meeting, Sir Christopher said: "Be patient, it will come in one form or another." A spokesman for products] to galvanise sales". Reuters added that the com-£850m cash, still hoped to resolve the issue by year-end.

Expectations of an announcement had been running

Hanson has sold its Eveready

South Africa battery operation to Duracell International, the

world's biggest maker of alka-

line batteries, for 525m rand

(£82m). The sale announced

yesterday comes on top of \$2.9bn (£1.9bn) of disposals

already completed by the in-

dustrial conglomerate in ad-

vance of the four-way demerger planned for later this year.

It completes the tidying-up of the Ever Ready batteries busi-

ness, the UK end of which was

sold to Raiston Purina of the US

MAGNUS GRIMOND

14 per cent increase in revenues day. Michael Stranks, an anavantageous dollar exchange rate. At constant exchange rates the increase fell short of expectations at only 9 per cent.

1996

Peter Job, chief executive. said growth from information products was slowing, partly due to consolidation in the financial sector, but also "partbecause we need our new 3000 product line [a replacement for the 2000 range of news and information screen-based

"This product line is now bepany, which has more than ing tested with customers and is scheduled to be released prior to our half-year results announcement in July," he said. Reuters shares fell 15p to high ahead of the group's first- 736p at one point, but rallied to quarter results which showed a close at 749p, a fall of 2p on the

in 1992. At the time, Ralston

was restricted in what it could invest in South Africa by US

sanctions. Hanson would not comment on whether the US

group was involved in the bid-

ding for Eveready South Africa,

but it is known that an auction

Hanson acquired Ever Ready

for £95m in 1981, netted £40m

from immediate disposal of

loss-makers, and retains the

Crabtree electrical plugs and

Derek Bonham, chief execu-

tive, said: "This sale marks fur-

ther progress in our disposals in

sockets business.

Hanson sells Eveready South Africa

or so below expectations; the market had been looking for 10 per cent at constant exchange rates. The fact that there was nothing new at the moment on any special dividend or share buy-back also disappointed some of the bulls." Jason Crisp, of Société

Générale Strauss Turnbull, said the share price fall was "an overreaction. The company had strongly indicated at the time of its results announcement in February that it would not see double-digit sales growth at constant exchange rates, and that there would be nothing new until the end of the year on plans to redistribute surplus cash to shareholders. He added,

advance of our demerger pro-

gramme, which is on track for

later this year." Vice-chairman

Christopher Collins said the

plan was for the chemicals and

tobacco operations to be de-

merged by 30 September, with

energy going by the end of the year. A roadshow to investors

Eveready South Africa had sales of 365m rand in the year

to last September, but Hanson

would not release any details of

profits or net assets. However,

the unit has reported lower

profits in each of the past two

fiscal years, hindered by open-

will kick off in September.



Slowdown: Peter Job hopes new products will lift sales

however, that there was likely to be disappointment in underlying sales growth.

market competition as South

Africa reduces tariff barriers.

The acquisition represents a

quantum leap for Duracell,

which only set up a business in

South Africa two years ago. The

large zinc carbon batteries pro-

duced by Eveready South

Africa are old-fashioned by

Western standards, but repre-

sent an extremely profitable business in southern Africa.

in Port Élizabeth and employs

900 people. It controls 95 per-

cent of the zinc carbon round

cell battery market in South

Africa

The operation has a factory

reshuffle of its roof tiles business, leaving it poised for further expansion in Europe. The deal, first announced

last month, will create the Conproviding the tiles for one in three European roofs. Redland is injecting its whollyowned western European business into Braas, the highly successful 51 per cent-owned German subsidiary. Redland's stake is set to rise

Redland is set to receive £220m

to 56.5 per cent as a result of the swap and the cash will haive gearing to 25 per cent. Debt of around £700m, will fall even further when the sale of the rest of Redland's bricks business is announced later this month. Market estimates suggest

that disposal could bring in a total of £230m, including £71m already received from the disposal of a stake in a Dutch business in February.

Commenting on the roof tiles deal yesterday, Robert Napier, chief executive of Redland who will chair the merged group, said: "One of the reasons we are doing this is because there are areas where we can grow further. France is one example."

called Redland Braas Building Group, would have access to cash flow from the German company to finance expansion. by 2-3 per cent.

Other areas of Europe, apart from France, where RBBG will be under-represented, include as a result of the planned the UK and Italy, although Mr Napier cautioned that monophome market.

roofing activities in the UK. Holland, France, Spain and Portugal, would be valued at Operating profits of the Red-

added only 1p to 410p yester-day, the deal was generally wel-comed by the stock market. Robert Donald, an analyst with Nat West Markets, said it was "a breath of fresh air at Redland". which should have been done

Award-winning Emirates now serves Ho Chi Minh City.



Ho! Ho! four times a week.



THE FINEST IN THE SKY

84 INTERNATIONAL AWARDS, 38 INTERNATIONAL DESTINATIONS, INCLUDING HO CHI MINH CITY VIA DUBAI FROM HEATHROW, GATWICK AND MANCHESTER. CALL US ON 0171 808 0808 (LON) OR 0161 437 9007 (MAN). OR CALL YOUR TRAVEL AGENT.

olies constraints could hold back further acquisitions in the He said the deal should add tinent's biggest manufacturer, to Redland's earnings in the first year after completion. The group's own business, including

> £440m by the swap, giving an exit price-earnings ratio of 15. land companies were £38.5m last year. By contrast, the merger val-ues Braas at £1.6bn, equivalent to a p/e ratio of 11. Mr Napier

said. Profits last year at Braas of £226m represented the lion's share of the £355m made by the whole Redland group.

Although Redland's shares

five. 10, 15 or 20 years ago.
"They are injecting assets which are underperforming into her. France is one example." a company with a good track
The new business, to be record and that must be good news for shareholders." He expects the merger to enhance next year's earnings per share

FT-SE 100 3<u>.825.3</u> + 34.8 FT-SE 250

FT-SE 350

4,458.5 + 41.8

1,925.7 + 17.7

[this

ie Is-

د this

with-

non.

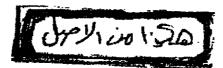
pos-llfire

here

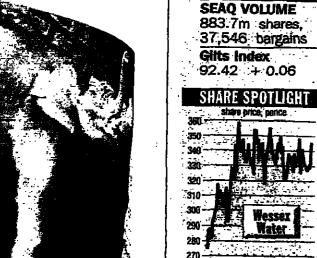
ers -

nost

IWO



market report/shares



1707

Feel-good investors push Footsie through 3,800 barrier

For the second day running said Southern planned to sell shares stretched to new peaks. In often brisk trading the FT-SE 100 index moved above 3,800 points for the first time, reaching 3,825.3 with a 34.8point gain; the supporting FT-SE 250 index surged 41.8 to

4.458.5p. The stock market was captivated by growing evidence the feel-good factor was at last coming through and hopes that interest rates could be reduced yet again. Takeover speculation remained an important influence.

National Power, the bigger of the two English generators, was the top-performing blue chip, as rumours circu-lated it would today be faced with a US bid. Utilities - electricity and water - had an eventful session with stories of bids, raids and stake-huilding.

nearly half its stake in South West Electricity which it acquired last year for £1.1bn. lmmediately the market alighted upon South West Water, already on the receiving end of two bid approaches, as Southern Co's next target.

SWW splashed 13p higher to 729p with its two known suitors, Severn Trent and Wessex, moving ahead. Severn gained 12p to 603p and Wessex 14p to 345p. Thames was also drawn into the water whirlpool, up 17p at 586p.

As the day progressed the SWW story lost some of its appeal and NP was thrust into the limelight. In an electrifying afternoon session the shares, in busy trading, surged 31.5p to 521.5p; the partly-paid jumped 30p to 387p.

It was the most dramatic ad-



MARKET REPORT DEREK PAIN Stock market reporter

expected Whitehall clearance.

generator, gained 12.5p to

570p. Several of the distribu-

tor takeover hopefuls, such as

London and Yorkshire, eased.

Wessex was partly over-looked

in the stampede. There is a

growing feeling its approach to SWW was prompted by de-

fensive considerations and it

PowerGen, the other English

the recent displays by Thorn aloof. They fell only 2p to 885p, suggesting the market be-lieved NP, whether or not it re-EMI, where the rumoured deal has failed to appear, and the jump by BET which unceive a bid, will press ahead earthed the predatory intenwith its offer once it gets the tions of Rentokil. One of the reasons behind

the gain was speculation that outhern Co could descend on NP with a hostile hid. But NP could be too big a mouthful even for the powerful US There were suggestions that problems in the futures mar-

ket had started the NP run and some fell back on the hoary old been caught short of stock.

versal Stores and Marks & the deal become apparent. Spencer leading the rush. Housebuilders made renewed headway and properties joined in on the back of Merrill Lynch support.

Grand Metropolitan lost its exuberance, falling 2p to 444p, and RMC, strong recently, re-treated 33p to 1,060p on prof-

Abbey National, ahead of a trading update, improved 9p to 586p and Prudential Corporation put on 7p to 446p on a reported Cazenove recommendation.

Granada continued its advance following the Forte takeover, gaining 17p to 823p. The shares have risen nearly 200p since its January victory and a 10p gain 363p by Rentokil was in anticipation of its expected success in the battle

Trocadero, the leisure group, ahead 4p to 56p on talk of a share overhang about to be cleared.

Rebus, a computer operation demerged from CE Heath, the insurance broker, opened at 88p and closed at 98p. But another newcomer Cardcast, a credit card fraud group, failed to hold its 85p offer price. After touching 91p

the shares closed at 83p. Northamber, the computer group, gained 13p to 289p after saying it would top market profit forecasts of up to £4.8m and Gardner, the closed circuit television business, added 2.5p to 28p, largely on institution-

al meetings. Jarvis, the building group, gained 4.5p to 45p, a peak. It has been pulled back into profspreading from sea safety to holiday homes, gained 7p to

<u>Interim figures are due next</u> week and around £950,000 against £828,000 is expected. The group acquired Crewsaver, a maker of life jackets, in February and its contribution should help lift year's profits from £2.8m to £3.5m which puts the shares on about 8.5 times prospective earnings.

📆 Opticians Brosgill & Leach surged 105p to 300p on Ofex. Like other opticians it has appealed against what are regarded as incorrect

VAT payments over the past seven years. It has yet to receive a rebate which in relation to group profits last year of £175,000, should be signif-

could soon be the victim of an excuse that the market had for BET It is felt that if it wins it but the market is keenly overseas strike. An American, Bill Dahlicant. Brosgill has 12 outlets, vance by a big company the Elsewhere, retailers enjoyed its shares could follow Granaawaiting confirmation of a Sigberg, chairman of the Southmarket has seen for a long Shares of Southern Electric, nine in Asda stores. It came nificant acquisition, perhaps a a heady run with Dixons, meetda's example, moving ahead ern Co, started the rush. He while. It easily overshadowed an NP bid target, remained powerfully as the advantages of railway maintenance business. to Ofex at 165p. ing analysts, Boots, Great Uni-Share Price Data 204 Prices are in sterling except where stated. The yield is last year's dividend, grossed up by 204 20 per cent, as a percentage of the share price. The price/learnings (P/E) ratio is the share are price divided by last year's earnings per share, excluding exceptional items.

205 Other details: or Ex ingline x Ex-dividend as Ex all ullinisted Securines Market e Suspended The Independent Index The index allows you to access real-time share prices by phone from Sear, Simply dail 0891 123 335, followed by the 4-digit code printed next to each share. To access the latest Water Shares Anyone with a tone-dial telephone can use this service. For a detailed description of The independent Index, including its portfolio facility, phone 0891 123 333. For assistance, call our helpline 0171 873 4375 (830am - 530pm). 700000 Sun Aliance 680000 Sears 670000 Lloyds TSB Monteon (Mm.) 780000 Sainsbury Silly!

1 get cash from a cash machine!

2 a key stop to 2 a k FT-SE 100 index hour by hour

teleconferencing links at its

offices in Farnborough and

Stockholm for use by clients for

whom this is the best solution

Looking to the future, life

could be more comfortable

yet for both the traveller and

the accountant. In aviation,

ever more alliances will be

formed between carriers to

create a more streamlined

service for connecting passen-

The giant business travel

agencies will flex their buying

biceps a little more, for

example by block-booking

space in premium cabins. If

your agency's clients, the logic

goes, are occupying 30 per cent of the Club World seats on

a particular BA flight to Singa-

pore, then the airline should

pass back some of the savings

on distribution costs. The same

theory can apply to hotels, car-rental and rail travel in the

endless battle against costs,

costs. costs - or, more posi-

tively, the search for value.

to a particular problem.

Business travellers, as I told an

airport operators' conference

earlier this month, are a deeply

unreasonable bunch. We want

to check in as late as possible.

fly from uncrowded airports at

the times of our choosing

direct to our destination, or

failing that enjoy a transit time

just long enough to allow for some relaxed shopping at

fiercely economical prices. I could have added that we

expect every hotel to have a

record of our reservation, and

to supply a pristine room kitted

out with the latest in hi-tech

and hi-comfort. The rental car

should be waiting, clean and full of fuel, for an immediate

gctaway. Should we decide instead to travel by train, we

expect a definite edge in time

and comfort over the alterna-

tives. Oh, and by the way, our

company accountants are

keeping a keener eye than

Costs, costs, costs; everyone

is seeking to control them

without sacrificing quality. As

this Special Report demon-

ever on costs.

exploring ways to maximise

flexibility while minimising

expenditure. Airlines and

hotels are trying to keep costs down without threatening the

revenue recovery that is under

way. The railways are tempting

travellers with valuable new

scheduling and comfort, while

new US carriers are showing

the way towards good-quality.

For a lot of businesses, the

place to start controlling costs

and adding value is with a

written company policy on

business travel. According to

Carlson Wagonlit, one of the

leading multinational agen-cies, only three in five Euro-

pean companies have a written

policy, compared with 76 per

cent of American businesses.

looking at the way in which travel is bought. All the old

certainties are being chal-

lenged, notably the commission

paid by airlines to agents. No

longer is there a simple equa-

tion between the amount a

This will by necessity involve

low-cost service.

iff

œ۱

New carriers offering better deals in US considerable cost advantages,

For years the aviation map of the United States has been comfortingly familiar. The Continental, Delta, Northwest and United - have dominated the market. But today's traveller to the US will discover that new airlines are challenging the established leaders.

premium cabins, much of it on the first class product. Inno-

vations such as individual

sleeper cabins are intended to

increase the present 50 per cent

average load factor in First. In

response, All Nippon Airways

is increasing seat pitch to a Sumo-sized 82 inches on its

The plane in front, of course.

is still a Concorde. The super-

sonic aircraft this year cele-

brates 20 years of commercial

service, but so far there is no

certainty about when - or if -

it will be replaced. The tech-nological focus has moved to

telecommunications, but there

is scant evidence that devel-

opments such as teleconfer-

encing are reducing the

amount of business travel. A

Carlson Wagonlit survey found

more than 80 per cent of busi-

ness travellers think it unlikely

that new technology will influ-

ence the number of trips they

Even so. Hogg Robinson is taking a broad view of its mission and has established

routes to Japan.

able place than it was in 1986.

That was the year when British

Midland began competing on

international routes from

Heathrow. Increased compe-

tition has improved service on

both short- and long-haul

flights. It is hard to distinguish

between the first class of 10

years ago and the business class of today - except that the

middle tier nowadays is often

more luxurious than the top-

flight of old. In recognition of

this fact, increasingly many airlines are doing away with the concept, but a second dynamic in at most increasing comfort

is at work increasing comfort

to a degree unparalleled since

the flying boats.

The American Express

survey found three out of five

travelling executives resent the

lack of personal space on aircraft. Accordingly, British

Airways is spending £500

million on upgrading its

The advantages can be demonstrated using a key route such as New York to Chicago. Kiwi International (not a New Zealand airline despite its name), has established a presence at Newark and has a busy route network in the eastern US. The lowest one-way flight from Newark to Chicago's Midway on Kiwi is \$99, which is around \$50 cheaper than

other carriers on the route. Cost is, of course, only one element of the business travel equation. Many business trav-ellers prefer Newark airport to the less user-friendly JFK, though La Guardia remains first choice for those in midtown Manhattan. Chicago's Midway airport is dwarfed by O'Hare – the world's busiest – but is much closer to the downtown Loop, to which it is now linked by rapid transit. So a low-cost

carrier can save stress, too. The established airlines are hitting back with low fares. Some are being marketed as "peanut" fares - because that's what you get for food, and that's what you pay". In the past year some fares have been cut to ludicrous levels, such as Atlanta to Orlando for \$45 or Los Angeles to Las Vegas for \$25. Small, niche operators have marketing effort; booking a flight on ValuJet, for example, from this side of the Atlantic is tricky. But America West, which specialises in the western US. including Los Angeles, Las Vegas, Phoenix, San Francisco. and San Jose, has an office here. It offers a four-coupon nationwide pass for £215. Buying tickets in the UK has the advantage of avoiding the 10 per cent transportation lax on air tickets applicable in the US. Horizon Air, a subsidiary of Alaska Airlines, offers the best

but one of these is often the absence of an international

miles-per-buck deal with its standby airpass in the northwest US. But only the most impoverished or optimistic business traveller would rely on this. Instead, most executives are looking to enhanced inflight service - more like the standards we enjoy in Europe.

Clear winner in Conde Nast Traveler's annual airline surve is Midwest Express, a Milwaukee-based carrier little known outside the US but beloved by many business travellers - and passengers on Virgin Atlantic who take advantage of the two carriers' marketing tie-up. For no more than the usual full fares, passengers enjoy extravagant food and free Champagne. Catching a plane in America doesn't have to be just like catching a

America West 01483 440490 : Horizon Air – airpuss available at AirPass Sales, 01737,555300 Midwest Express 001 414 570

Quest Worldwide 0181-546 6000

Airlines cap agency fees

SIMON CALDER

British Airways is seeking to cut the commission paid to business travel agents, following the example of leading airlines in the US who unilaterally capped commission payments.
Instead of a fixed percentage,

a maximum fee of, say, \$25 or \$50 is allowed. The airlines say this more adequately reflects the work done by the agent, but the bread and butter business for agents has changed radi-cally. The US division of Carlson Wagonlii, one of the leading international business agencies, last week reported that commission capping had dampened revenue growth significantly in 1995.

Now BA is looking hard at its distribution costs, ie how much revenue it must surrender to fill business seats. In jeopardy is not merely the agents' comfortable 9 per cent they presently enjoy on air tickets, but the whole murky business of overrides. Put simply, if agents sell sufficient of certain

high-value tickets on certain airlines, they earn commission above the normal rate. Some agents use this to help pay for non-revenue services, such as on-call assistance or visa facil-ities; others split the bonus with the customer, and still more use the overrides to offer fares well below official rates.

BA is using its considerable muscle to implement lower commission levels. One immediate consequence is likely to be that some revenue is diverted to other airlines, who offer better incentives to agents.

In the meantime travellers could be steered towards some unusual carriers. If the clerk at your agency commends a business-class trip to New York on Icelandair via Reykjavik, it is probably because the fare of around £1,300 return represents excellent value. But the recommendation might also possibly be influenced by the fact that he or she stands to make £100 in Marks & Spencer vouchers for every such booking made this month or next.





A SPECIAL REPORT

BUSINESS TRAVEL

Things are looking up for the high flyer

Accountants are watching expenses, but travel agents can still

find the right deal for business travellers, says Simon Calder

a good omen, perhaps, for Denim Air and World Airlines,

which in the next fortnight

start new services to Holland

from the 10-minute check-in

canvassed business travellers

worldwide, and found that

British executives are the ones

demanding free drinks in

airport lounges most noisily -

which is perhaps why they are

also less concerned than any

other nationality about

whether the plane turns up on

time. They also, says OAG,

complain more than anyone

else about fellow passengers,

especially those who get

been out of circulation for a

decade (or perhaps just stuck

an inordinately long stack at Kennedy airport) will find the

world a rather more comfort-

Yet the traveller who has

upgrades from economy.

Official Airline Guides

airport, London City.

company pays and the percentage the agent earns.
These days, the travel agent
The trend towards fee-based

arrangements is accellerating.

This means the client pays the

net cost of travel (ie free of

commission), plus a negotiated

fee to the agent in exchange for

the value added. So the

nagging worry that your agent

is recommending a particular

supplier or product because of

the potential commission he or

For the business traveller, meanwhile, life on the road or

in the skies seems to be getting

a little smoother - but that

doesn't stop us complaining

about it, as two business travel

surveys published this week

demonstrate. American

Express asked visitors to the

Business Travel '96 exhibition

in London what irritated them

most. The number one bate was the need to check in early;

she stands to earn, is cased.

will not survive by simply

issuing a ticket", says David

Raddiffe, managing director of the leading business agency, Hogg Robinson BTI. "The

agent must give value to the

rapid visa procurement, travel

medicine advice and global

assistance are being taken for

granted. So now the focus is

switching to buying power. Hogg Robinson, like Carlson

Wagonlit and American

Express, uses international

muscle to secure deals across

the range of business travel

services. There is still space for

the good independent business

travel agency, but more than

ever those who survive and

prosper will be those who are

customer-focussed and are

Increasingly, services like

ic [s.

SIMON CALDER

The Eurostar journey through the Channel Tunnel from London to Brussels points up the muddle and inconsistencies of European rail travel. You start by clanking through the south London suburbs, your gleaming express slotted in among commuter trains on lines built 150 years ago. It takes an hour to reach the new Ashford International station. Beyond here, the train changes its electricity supply system and begin to accelerate through the tunnel, reaching Calais in under 40 minutes. There follows a blissful but all-toobrief interlude through France when the train can travel at its 186mph maximum. Then it slows and adapts to a third electrical system, pottering through

Brussels. The city centre-to-city centre journey takes around three hours 15 minutes.

The route to the Belgian capital has not been as successful as the Paris run, a greater distance but a faster ride. Yet Eurostar has still carved a considerable slice out of the airlines' revenues between London and Brus-sels. When the new high-speed line through Belgium opens, the journey time will be cut and the give the train a distinct edge over flying.

One big problem afflicting the railways has always been the same: compatibility of cross-border services. Spain and France, for example - two of the larger EU nations, sharing a long common border - still employ different gauges. And again, and Germany), have invested heavily in high-speed domestic rail travel, the business traveller would be forgiven for perceiving a lack of enthusiasm for a truly trans-Euro-

pean railway network. From June this year, he or she should start to notice a difference. Thalys, the highspeed link between Paris, Brussels, Amsterdam and Cologne is due to open, with Lille as a high-speed crossroads. Its handsome Lille Europe station will connect France, Belgium, Holland and Germany - and Britain via the Channel Tunnel, but slowly. The high-speed link so badly needed between Ashford and London is not due to open for another six years. Meanwhile British travellers from outside the capital should

at last start to notice some improvement when direct trains begin from leading cities direct o Paris later this year.

Lille will become still more important to French-bound business travellers as extra services are added to destinations throughout France.

Elsewhere in Europe, trav-ellers will see benefits from the Great Belt project in Denmark, an ambitious bridge/tunnel scheme aimed at speeding travellers by eliminating ferry transfers between Copenhagen and Jutland. In Italy, Pendolino trains on the trunk route between Milan and Rome are doing roughly what Britain's now-defunct Advanced Passenger Train intended to do - run at high speed on existing

Germany's high-speed spine

from Hamburg to Munich is well under way, and some of the creakier old links to Berlin are being enhanced in advance of the city regaining its status as capital, But the ultimate way to travel through Germany - and as far as Vienna and Zurich is aboard the City Night Line, which aims to provide five-star overnight accommodation to executives while speeding through Germany. Already some say they can discern a drop in the number of BMWs and Mercedes roaring across

the country.
As the London-Brussels experience shows, there is still some way to go before rail is the natural choice of the business traveller in Europe. A trans-Alpine journey I made earlier this month summed up the problems. My international

ticket required a supplement for the Italian, but not the flying. The extra space was welcome, the catering splendid and the views superb. And the

cost (including that irritating

this hardly counts. Improve-ments in the air, however, are

making the poor facilities on

the ground even more painfully

apparent. I have yet to find an

Indian airport to which some

or all of the words chaotic,

uncomfortable and less-than-clean apply. Many Indian

airports are part of military installations, and so the provi-

sion of facilities for business

travellers does not rate highly.

the world's second most-popu-

lous country, should not be overlooked by the business

traveller. Hardier expatriates

have been covering the country for years in the (relative) comfort of "2AC" - second

class, air-conditioned carriages

that make perfect sense for

short or overnight journeys

such as Jaipur to Delhi, or

Varanasi to Calcutta. The

computerised booking system,

covering main lines across the

whole country, works pretty

However you reach your

destination, these days you can

be confident will be an interna-

tional-standard hotel awaiting

you. Both domestic and

established in business cities.

The main shock, particularly in

and additional facilities. India

is now in line with much of the

rest of the world in terms of the

price of business travel.

Indian Railways, the traditional means of getting around

Swiss part of the journey. After queuing for 10 minutes, I discovered that this could not be paid by credit card, and had to line up at the bureau de change to procure some more Swiss francs before reacquainting myself with the original queue. The Baselto-Bologna express left 45 minutes late from the dismally comfortless Swiss station, and devoured an entire working day in its eight-hour haul across the Alps and northern Italy. But the trip also demonstrated some of the benefits compared with

These are changing times. And hotels are changing with them.

Hotels upgrade

to technological

innovations

The business traveller's technological needs as well as their demands for everything from health spa facilities to environmentally thoughtful policies are now being catered for. Environmental policies are eller's "must-have" list, but

rarely top of the business travmany hotels are nevertheless realising that waste, water and energy management helps them cut costs, and appeals to their increasingly environmentallyaware clientele who often see such policies being implemented in Europe and the US. The International Hotels Environment Initiative has gone a long way to improving the environmental performance of many resource-hungry hotels. However getting good busi-

ness support services is of course paramount for any business traveller. Gone are the days when messages get stuck in pigeon holes in reception. now voice-mail in your room often provides you with your own personal answerphone. Some hotels will give you business cards with your room's direct line printed on them, and a hotel that addresses the needs of the most sophisticated business traveller will be

looking at installing technology for video telephones and ISDN communications. As ever the US is leading the way with such state-of-the-art services, but Britain is trotting eagerly

Finding sophisticated services is fine, even in the UK - as long as your expenses stretch that far. Some hotels, like the recently refurbished Berner's Hotel in London, dedicate a whole "Club Floor" to the business traveller (£195

single, £200 double).
"We wanted to put a five-star product in a four star hotel so converted the fifth floor for our business customers, with a sepainternational chains are well rate check-in facility, fitness centre and Club Lounge, explains Director of Sales, Bombay - recently renamed Leslie Hall. Mumbai - is the price of a room

In the Club Lounge complimentary soft drinks are served all day a business centre is available with access to a photo-

computers and complimentary use of a boardroom. There is also 24 hour room service for anyone who is up all night sweating over sales figures, and a nightly networking opportu-nity where guests can meet each other from 5.30 to 7pm over a glass of champagne in the Club Lounge.

Similarly, it is no problem to find luxury hotels with excellent fitness and health spa facilities. Go to New York, Beijing, Manila, Beverley Hills or Hong Kong and you can luxuriate in the Peninsula Hotels' luxury spas, and enjoy an "executive relaxation day" for a mere \$285.60. Closer to home and at the budget end of business travel, even the Forte freephone number (0800 404040) could tell me that the Post House in Swindon has its own leisure club, indoor pool, sauna, gym, en-suite facilities, hair dryer. tea, coffee, and remote control

But for the budget business traveller who actually wants to do some work, searching for a morn with a phone that reaches the desk can be a difficult task, let alone finding one with a socket to plug your modem into. Unfortunately the Forte freephone number couldn't tell me if rooms at the Post House, Swindon had phones, let alone a modem socket.

Mike Gates of Hogg Robinson BTI insists the best way to find accommodation that suits your needs is through a good business travel agent. We keep a database of clients so that every time we research a booking for you we auto-matically know what facilities you need when you are away,' he explains.

Facilities for the budgetconscious business traveller also are slowly improving. Holiday Inn is introducing an Express Brand room which will offer business facilities with accommodation at around £40 per night, and are increasingly taking bookings over the internet.

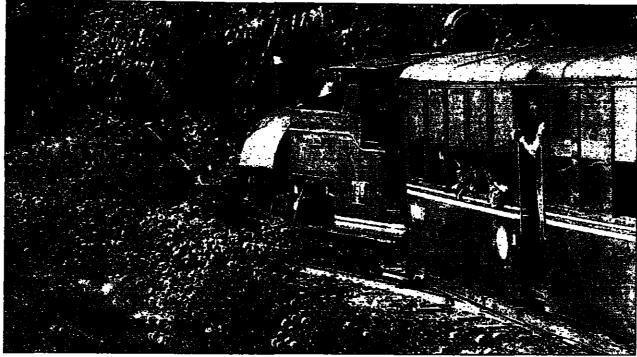
So if you're on the road and you want to book a room, just click-on to the virtual reality reception area and check out the facilities for yourself health, business or otherwise. That is, if you can find anywhere

supplement) was just a quarter of the equivalent air fare. Indian air carriers raise standards

In other places, the concept would not seem odd. You contact the airline or a travel agent and book a flight. At the airport, you board a modern, well-maintained aircraft. It departs on schedule, and you enjoy a pleasant meal and a drink en route. Upon arrival, you are promptly re-united with your luggage. Yet for longsuffering business travellers in India, this sort of thing is a reve-

For decades, the state-owned domestic carrier Indian Airlines enjoyed a monopoly on flights within the country. Tales of overbooking and arbitrary cancellation were legion. More worryingly, questions were raised about maintenance standards after the loss of an Indian Airlines Airbus A320. During an industrial dispute the company deployed aircraft and crews from the Soviet Union, which did little to dispel concern over safety.

Eventually, evidence from abroad about the benefits of competition in aviation was taken on board and, slowly, the airways over India were liberalised. A number of new carriers are now competing with Indian Airlines, and each other, on domestic routes. The potential rewards are considerable: besides a pool of frustrated business travellers, there are approximately 60 million middle-class Indians (even



Not just toy trains: Indian Railways still provide a viable mode of transport for business travellers Photograph: Simon Calder

using John Prescott's definition

The improvements have been rapid. One of the first newcomers on the scene was Modiluft. The "luft" in the title is a reference to the German national airline Lufthansa, which maintains the carrier's Boeing 737s - and lends elements of its corporate identity. Initially Modiluft was

obliged to market its services as a curious charter/scheduled hybrid, but now rules have been relaxed.

Modiluft is competing for custom with Jet Airways, which has built up an extensive network using the ubiquitous 737. I found standards on a twohour flight from the Himalayan foothills to Delhi to be gratifyingly in line with those on

intra-European services. The meal was excellent, though people who enjoy an alcoholic drink might blanche at the insipid squash which accompanied the food. The view from the window seat at 30,000 feet, watching Everest and its partners march past at eye level, was unparalleled.

To see how Indian Airlines

tion. I flew on the national carrier from Agra to Varanasi. There was no evidence of overbooking, and inflight service was perfectly adequate. The flight was an hour behind schedule for no immediately annarent reason, but compared with some of the delay horror stories which have achieved near-legendary status among

🖖 INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS TRAVELLERS 🛧 Now you've got the WHOLE WORLD in your hands

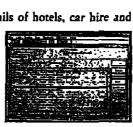
Introducing OAG FlightDiskthe comprehensive worldwide flight schedule and travel guide for PCs and Networks.

Finally, there's a fast, efficient way for international business travellers to plan travel itineraries in minutes.

NEW OAG FlightDisk for PCs and Networks gives you international airline schedules on disk or CD-ROM. So you have instant access to details on well over half a million flight schedules worldwide, and it's

You also get contact details of hotels, car hire and

ground transportation, frequent flyer programmes and vital information on visas, inoculations and local customs. It's all the up-tothe-minute information you need for efficient business travel planning.

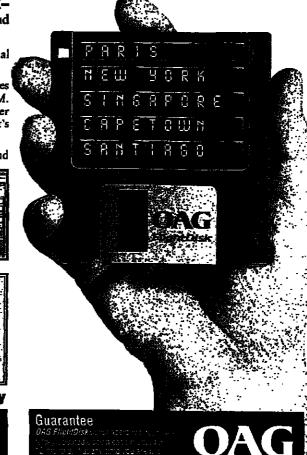


Travel information at your fingertips

Our 650,000 figur schedules - worldwide Plight selection by actival/departure date, time, they or preferred artime
 View all direct and connecting flights

Worldwide hotel and car reservation pur

Order your FREE demo FlightDisk today PRIORITY HOTLINE ភ0990 447788 FAX: 01789 416558



YES please send my FREE demo FlightDisk, together with complete details of how OAG FlightDisk saves both time and money when planning travel. UKAII

OTHER AIRLINES MAY ALSO CONNECT YOU TO 125 U.S. CITIES



BUT ONLY ONE COLLECTS YOU

sessessies Fly Continental Airlines BusinessFirst via New York or Houston and the First Class treatment starts at your door with a chauffeur driven car to London Gatwick, Manchester, and other principal U.K. airports.* It continues on board with a First Class sleeper sear in First Class space with First Class service. And the First Class treatment goes on and on to over I25 U.S. cities, where a limousine will meet you - proving that we have the best collections. As well Continental as the best connections. All for a Business Class fare. See your travel agent or call Continental on 0800 747800.

lines cap

ency fees

Sutcliffe and .

Ridley rattle

Leicestershire

Cricket

145-3 dec

212-7 Match drawn

HENRY BLOFELD

reports from The Parks

Leicestershire 299-4 dec &

Oxford University 207-6 dec &

Some brilliant strokeplay by

Iain Sutcliffe and Andrew Ridley, who put on 142 in 30

took Oxford close to a remark-

able victory over Leicester-

238 in 90 minutes plus 20 overs,

the university were 80 for 1

when the last 20 overs began.

the first over of the last 20.

Ridley straight-drove Adrian

Pierson's first ball over the

sightscreen for six and Sutcliffe

swept the third for another, and

to check the flow of runs.

overs when Sutcliffe cut Gordon

Parsons and Pierson held an ex-

cellent tumbling catch deep in the gully. Gul Khan who had

failed earlier in the day by six

runs to make a century in his

first innings for Oxford, came

half forward to drive Darren

Maddy and was lbw - this was

Maddy's first first-class wicket.

three good strokes before being

run out while Ridley went on in

fine style, playing shots all round

the wicket. He swung Parsons

It looked a dull draw, but in

sport

Sobanska relishes the dog days

Mike Rowbottom on the Pole defending her title in Sunday's London Marathon

gorzata Sobanska. And, come

to think of it, for her dog. The Pole who made her name with last year's unex-pected London Marathon victory has since finished fourth in the World Championships, and as she prepares to defend her title on Sunday her faithful hound and sometime training partrer Figa is not far from her

If there were a marathon for dogs, Figa would surely have an outstanding chance of honours. Last week, for example, his mistress estimates he ran 70 kilometres alongside her in her home town of Poznan - all the more remarkable given the fact that Figa is a dachsund. But then Figa translates into English as fig - and we all know what they can do for you.

iff

ħ٤

Ĺaı

/hj

nε

he

Sobanska's own performance last April was pretty remarkable as she outsprinted Portugal's Manuela Machado - who went on to win the world title - and finished just 10 seconds clear in what was the closest finish in the race's 16-year history.

Sobanska, who will turn 27 five days after Sunday's event, was far from being one of the favourites in London last year. Having started marathon running in 1991, two third places in Berlin in 1993 and 1994 had established her as a respectable competitor, but her fortitude in the final run-in down the Mall took everyone by surprise.

"I was not expected to win in London by any of the media, or my friends, or even my family," she said. "There were a few press conferences organised

for me when I got back home. "At the moment in Poland it is very difficult finding sponsorship," she said through an interpreter. "Interest is geared towards football and motor sports rather than the

marathon.' But political changes in her home country have meant that. unlike previous years, athletes

It has been quite a year for Mal- a nominal fee to their home federation - in her case, a token \$200 (£130) a year.

That has allowed her to use her winning bonus of \$55,000 (£36,000) from 1995 to build a house for herself and her new husband; and, who knows, perhaps a new kennel for Figa.

She had another good payday in Tokyo last October, where she finished the marathon in sixth position, one place ahead of the runner she identifies as her main rival this Sunday, Liz McColgan.

The Scotswoman appears to be in far better form than last year, when she finished fifth behind Sobanska in London, but the Pole is drawing confidence from recent road races in Florida and Albuquerque, where she has broken her personal bests for five and 10 kilometres.

Sobanska's fine, dark features grow gloomy at the recall of the World Championship race, which was subsequently discovered to have been 400 metres short. As the fastest finisher, she believes she would have had a medal had the full distance been run.

No such hiccups are likely to occur in London, however. And given ideal conditions, Sobans ka believes she is capable of lowering her best of 2hr 27min 43sec to something closer to 2:25.

That would take McColgan into new territory if she were to maintain a challenge and give the event another finish to relish However it turns out, Sobanska's parents will not be in London to witness the struggle.
"They don't like to watch me

running and suffering." Sobanska said. "My mother particularly worries about me because I am the youngest in the family. It is probably best that they are not to be here." But it is good that she is.

The 6ft 2in Welshman Iwan Thomas, who is aiming for a relay place at the Olympics, went fourth in the all-time United Kingdom 400m rankings with a now need to pay no more than 44.66sec victory in Johannesburg.



Come in No 11: David Thomas, of Hampshire's 2nd XI, foiled by England Under-19 at Southampton

Lord's prepared for a Botham victory

Lord's are ready to welcome Ian Botham if he wins the election to become an England selector.

Botham's nomination by Derbyshire earlier this month seemed to have provoked worries in the corridors of power, with counties immediately being reminded about a possible clash of interests because of the

NEWMARKET

2.00: 1. SHERPAS (Pat Eddery) 7-2 fav; 2. Sasura 9-2; 3. Valedictory 9-1. 10 ram, hd, 1. (H Ceci, Newmarket). Tote: £3.30; £1.50, £1.50, £3.20. Dual Forecast £8.80. Computer Straight Forecast: £17.42. Trio: £8.70. Non Runner: Petrolio.

2.8.7.0. Non Numer: Percent.
2.35: 1. ELSALEET (I. Destort) 7-2; 2. Watch Me 15-2; 3. Oppara 3-1 fav. 11 ran., hd, 5. U Gosden, Newmarket), Tota: £5.10; £2.20, £2.80, £1.80. DF: £35.10. CSF: £30.50. Trus £16.00. Unitsal (6-1) withdrawn not under orders. Rule 4 applies to board prices only, deduct 10p in pound.

3.05: 1 PASSION FOR LIFE (Pat Eddery) 11-4 fav; 2. Richand 15-2; 3. Struggler 11-2. 13 ran. 1½, 2. (G Lewis, Epsom). Tota: £3.50; £1.70, £1.90, £2.30. DF: £13.40.

3.40: 1. THRILLING DAY (D Harrison) 20-1; 2. Bint Salsabil 7-2 Jt fav; 3. Honest

involvement. But now, as the former allrounder's campaign apparently

ex-captain's extensive media

gathers momentum in the runup to tonight's voting deadline, Lord's officials insist they have "no problem" with any of the eight candidates to join Ray Illingworth's selection panel.

Buest 16-1 11 ran. 7-2 It fav Mard For The Hills (5th), sh hd, 24-; (N Graham, Newmar-leu), Tother £26.50; £5.20, £1.70, £3.40, Dual Forecast: £44.50, Computer Straight Forecast: £81.73, Tho: £228.30.

4.15: 1. SAMMARTINO (Pat Ethien) evens fav. 2. Unchanged 7-2; 3. Theijanah 6-1. 4 ran. 2½, 6. (B Hills, Lamboum). Tota: 51:40. Loui Forecast: £1.80. Computer Straight Forecast: £4.24. 4.46: 1. SRY DOME (P Robinson) 14-1; 2. Welville 11-2; 3. White Plains 7-1. 13 ran. 9-2. It favs Waydoutt (4th) & Sustach, hd, 2. (M Tompkins, Newmarket). Tota: £16.40; £3.00, £2.20, £2.50. DF: £83.10. CSF: £83.57. Titizst: £546.68. Titix £208.70. NRX Apache Lan.

5.20: 1. DOVALY (Pat Eddery) 8-1: 2. Secho evens far; 3. Generosus 14-1. 16 ran, 1₀, 1₀. (H. Cect. Navmarket). Tota: £8.40; £2.40, £1.40, £2.60. DF: £6.30. CSF: £16.44. Tho: £15.00.

"I'm perfectly happy with all morrow morning and an-of them," the Test and County nounce the result around Cricket Board chief executive, Alan Smith, said. "All eight are good people and I don't find it unhealthy to have that many candidates. It has created a lot of public interest, which

Jackpot: not won (pool of £8,125.78 came forward to Newmarket today).
Placepot: £53.40. Quadpot: £29.80.

FOLKESTONE

4 far; 2. Poetry 10-1; 3. Proud Look 9-4. 12 ram. nk, 4. (/ Gosden, Newmarker), Totes £2.30; £1.10, £2.50, £1.30. DF: £18.30. CSF: £19.68. Tno: £6.40. NR: Sarasota Ryde.

1.50: 1. DEEPLY VALE (A Lakeman) 11-

2; 2. Scissor Ridge 15-2; 3. Mazzarello 14-1; 4. Pointer 33-1, 16 ran. 5-1 fav Gegeswick Git (Sin), 24, sh Id. (G L Moore, Epsorn), Tota: £7-40; £1-70, £1-70, £3-30,

2,20: 1. LADY CAROLINE LAMB (TQuin)

8-13 (e); 2. Primo Lad 6-1; 3. Lest Bet Not Least 11-4. 5 ren. 2V; (M Channon). Tote: £1.30; £1.10, £1.80. DF: £3.00. CSF: £4.50.

£10.30, DF: £15.70, CSF: £44.96. £509.62, Trio: £262.90,

Smith will count the votes to-

Gooch, Kim Barnett, Brian Bolus, John Edrich, David Graveney, Geoff Miller and Chris Cowdrey. RACING RESULTS

lunchtime. Apart from the 40-

year-old Botham, the other

seven candidates are the for-

mer England captain Graham

Tno: £319.50. 3.25: 1. FREENDLY BRAVE (A Whelanu 11-4; 2. Moujeeb 5-1; 3. Petraco 2-1 fav. 7 ran. 4, nk. (Miss Gay Kelloway, Newmarket). Tebes 54: 10; £1.90, £2.70. DF. £10.30. CSF: £15.68. NR: Aljaz.

4.00: 1. SHARAF (K Darley) 15-8 fav: 2. Northern Fleet 5-2; 3. Horesti 11-2; 14 ran. 6; 174. y Dunlon, Arundeli. Tothe: 25-00: 51.40, £1-70, £1.80. Df: £2.90. CSF: 57.15. Tro: £4.90. Non Ranner: Aim For Standard

4.35: 1. SANDABAR (K Bradsham) 5-1; 2. Consort 5-2; 3. Crazy Chief 2-1 fav. 12 ran. ½, nk, fM Stoute, Newmarketj, Totac £4.50; £2.40, £1.70, £1.10. DF. £10.10. CSF. £18.49. Tno: £29.50.

2.56: 1. TOY PRINCESS (K Darley) 16.1: 2. Hattaufeh 20-1; 3. Stalled 4-1 fav. 16 ran. ¼, 5. (C Brittan, Newmarket). Tote: £21.30; £4.70, £6.90, £1.40, £5.10. Df: £99.50. CSF: £268.95. Tricast: £1,395.71 5-1: 2. Kingchip Boy 9-1: 3. Manabar 12-1. 14 ran. 7-2 fav Zahid. 4, 1-4. (P Webber, Banbury). Tote: £8.90; £2.20, £1.70, £3.00. DP. £106.20, CSF. £50.51. Treast: £485.22. Tno: £344.80. NR: Pennine Wind. Placepot: £57.10. Quadpot: £21.70. Place 6: £45.03. Place 5: £34.70.

evens for, 2. Relities 11.4; 3. Ela Mista 16-1. 11 ran. 6, 2y-, (Mrs M Raveley). Tota: £1.90; £1.10, £1.60, £7.00. DF: £2.40. CSF: £4.21. Tran. £10.60.

2-4:21. IRD: £110-50.

2-45: 1. HAMN N'EGGS (R Gamthy) 15-8 tay; 2. Nightland Way 6-1; 3. Allerby 50-1. 20 ran. 24., 11. (M Harrmond). Total: £2.60; £1-50. £1-80. £1-72.0. DF: £5.80. CSF: £14.79. NR: Baher. Tro: £190.10.

HEXHAM

5.00: 1. RASCALLY (A Thornton) 11-2; 2.

Charity Crusader 3-1 lav. 3. Mister Trick 11-2 10 ran. 4, 13. (Mrss I. Siddail), Total £4.30, £2.00, £1.30, £1.60. DF: £7.40, CSF. £21.20. Tricast: £87.37. Tro: £10.50. After

BREAKS FOR £5 PER PERSON PER NIGHT

scape to the countryside for a Spring break with The Independent and the Independent on Sunday Cottage Holiday offer. We've teamed up with Blakes Country Cottages to offer readers the opportunity to sample Blakes great family holidays in a selection of hand-picked properties for just £5 per person per night.

Blakes Country Cottages are one of the largest and most experienced cottage holiday companies in Britain, with a range of almost 2000 properties to choose from in the most popular parts of Britain.

properties in 18 selected holiday sites, with accommodation ranging from a converted stable block, to the wing of a country house, to cosy woodland lodges. There is always plenty to enjoy, from peaceful walks in the country to riding and games rooms for the children. Simply ask for details when you call Blakes to book.

person per night and you must stay for a minimum of seven nights. Holidays can be taken between 20 April - 24 May 1996. Accommodation is suitable for parties of two to twelve. Accommodation must be booked at maximum occupancy, for example a party of four cannot occupy accommodation which sleeps seven.

HOW TO QUALIFY

Simply collect four differently numbered tokens from the seven we will be printing until Saturday 20 April. Today we are printing Token 4.

HOW TO BOOK

- Call Blakes Country Cottages on 01282 445221 for a brochure and reservations, quoting the
- "Independent £5 per night offer". Give your advisor the following



(a) Your preferred holiday area; North England, West Country, Scotland or Wales.

(b) The number of adults and children on holiday.

ing you will be asked for full payment (c) The holiday start and end dates. by credit card or cheque.

BB8 6RN.

advisor will tell you where to send your tokens to. • Please note, you may book imme-

diately before you have collected your four tokens, but you will require the tokens for final confirmation of your booking.

sixes. When he skied Maddy to backward point Oxford's heroic challenge had ended. But it had been a wonderful day for university cricket, set up by a good declaration from James Whitaker, Leicestershire's new captain. In their sec-

Hern

strokes, which will have done their confidence good. The day had begun with Khan, who was 56 not out, continuing to play some gloriovers for the second wicket, ous strokes. He faced 123 balls and hit 12 fours and one six in his 94. He was released by shire. After being left to score Essex last year and in this form will surely make them have embarrassing second thoughts.

(electorshire wor toss, finel day of time)

(electorshire: – First lenings 299 for 4 dec
(BF Smith 123 no. P A Naon 100 no. V) wess

57).

ond innings, the county's main batsmen all played some nice

COCFORD UNIVERSITY - First himlegs

1) N BODY INC.
Extrus (Ad. (bit0)
Total (for 6 dac, 67 overs)
Fell continued: 5-176, 6-187.
Did not bat: R Tromson, D P Mather, S P D. Pres.
Boulding: Milns 18-6-59-2; Multally 15-2-53-1
Parsons 13-3-37-1; Person 13-2-33-1; Wei
4-0-9-1; Maddy 2-1-1-0; Macmilian 2-1-1-0;
LECESTERSHIRE - Second Imiliags. the final assault had begun. Runs came at a hectic pace and for a long time Leicestershire had five men back on the boundary but were still unable Oxford needed 92 from 11

LENCESTRESHRE - Second

J. Whitaver b Math.

G Maccritian c Jurett b Mather.

J. Weeks c Ridley b Math.

D. Maddy not out.

Mark Wagh played two or

7-212.
Did not bat: D P Mather, S P QuPrest.
Bowding: Mustarly 9.4-2-31-0; Milins 6-1-21-1;
Parsons 10-2-43-1; Pierson 9-0-58-0; Wells
2-0-20-0; Maddy 5-0-28-2.
Umpirest: A G T Whitehead and N G Cowley. square for six and reached his first first-class hundred in 101 halls, with eight fours and four Exception 4-1, 11 ran. 24., 4. (G Richards). Tota: £1.60; £1.10, £1.60, £1.60. DF: £14.20. CSF: £14.82. Trio: £77.40.

. .

**Zet*: 1. WESTWELL BOY (A Cobbin) 6-1; 2. Foogroup 8-1; 3. Webenico Andy 12-1. 8 rap. 11.8 far Nashmit (4th. 13. 16. (P Beauthort). Tota: £6.30; £1.60, £2.10, £2.10. DF: £18.90. CSF: £47.48. Theast: £508.95.

3.50: 1. NEW TRIBE (L O'Hara) 5-2 fast

Cottage holidays with windependent

This exclusive offer applies to 200

The offer allows you to stay for £5 per

 You will then be offered a choice of suitable properties and will be given details of the location, facilities and accommodation.

. If you wish to confirm your book-

 You will be asked to send your tokens with your cheque (made payable to Blakes Country Cottages) to: Blakes Country Cottages, Spring Mill, Earby, Nr Colne, Lancashire,

If you are paying by credit card, your

2 Over 200 units of accommodation are available per holiday week 3 Units must be booked at maximum occupancy, e.g. a party of four cannot occupy a unit which sleeps seven.

4 Holiday must start and finish between 20 April and 24 May 1996.

Pictured are Sunset Cottages in Gilling East.

North York Moors. Sunset cottages derive

their name from the glorious sunsets which

can be enjoyed from such an elevated posi-

tion commanding views across the fields to-wards the hills. They lie in the centre of the

Howardian Hills, which are bounded by the

spectacular Derwent Valley. Converted from

a former granary and cart shed, the cottages

still retain much of their old world character.

The owners take great care and pride in the

presentation of their property and the com-

fort of their guests, who are encouraged to

TERMS & CONDITIONS

1 The Cottage Holiday offer is subject to avail-

enjoy the extensive farmhouse garden.

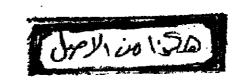
North York Moors National Park and the

5 Blakes Country Cottages, the name of which is used under licence from Blakes Holidays Ltd.,

is a trading division of Holiday Cottages Group 6 Normal terms and conditions of booking apply. These are published in Blakes Country Cottages brochures and are available upon request.

7 Prices exclude optional insurance and pet charges (where applicable).





fthis

ation

ie ly.

CON

with

лоп,

tree-

arily

iful-

ians

eg

Cestership Alhaarth's aim Market Brown Stakes at Royal Asex she will not find the c

Alhaarth, it seems, will not be using his local saver travel pass after all this week for Newbury's Greenham Stakes. The griddlehot favourite for both the 2,000 Guineas and the Derby will now see his home course only out of the box window as he travels to contest Newmarket's Craven Stakes tomorrow.

Major Dick Hern, the colt's trainer, has had the weather maps spread across the table at his Lambourn yard and the deduction is that bad weather will visit Newbury on Friday.

"The Major will talk to Willie [Carson] and Sheikh Hamdan [Al Maktoum] tonight but it sounds like it is more likely to be here than Newbury," Angus Gold, the racing manager to Al-haarth's owner, said at Headquarters yesterday. "He does not want too hard a race on soft

ground at this stage of the year. Everyone is talking about him carrying a penalty here, but other than Rio Duvida, the more proven horses are carry-

ing a penalty as well anyway. Connections have already collected the 2,000 Guineas with Nashwan, who went to the Day, who had been whipped up Classic without a race. Circumstances have altered with the latest hero. "This is a dif-surrounding future events in the ferent type of horse from Nash- diary. Neil Graham's runner wan, who did everything very may now go for the Coronation

does just enough and that's it. As soon as he sees his wagon and he goes past his lead horse that's it. He's working very well and the Major couldn't be happier with him but this is just to sharpen the horse up."

Bint Salsabil had her 1,000 Guineas sharpener for the same team yesterday in the Nell Gwyn Stakes and just failed to hold the late burst of Thrilling

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Spree Cross (Cheltenham 4.35) NB: Smart Alec (Newmarket 3.05)

Day. The staying-bred filly ran the mirror image of the race expected from her, leading all the way before capitulating in the final strides. Carson put this down to lack of fitness. John Dunlop, Bint Salsabil's trainer,

Sheikh Hamdan, who is some way behind Rolf Harris in the outwardly jolly table, said: "I thought a furlong out she would draw away but the jockey said

she got tired."
This was the day for Thrilling to an early peak of perfection against fillies who had red rings

generously at home," Gold said. Stakes at Royal Ascot, where This is a pretty idle horse who she will not find the opposition as lethargic.

The Abernant Stakes was captured by Passion For Life, who would probably flinch if you flashed an item of cutlery in front of him. Geoff Lewis's horse has had the more damaging silverware of scalpels glinting in front of him twice already in his short life, firstly to remove bone chips from his knees and then any chance he had of being a father. The potential stud value of

Sacho does not appear as good as it was either. The second favourite for the Derby was beaten on his seasonal debut and is now 25-1 (from 14-1) with Ladbrokes for the Classic, He was the first of many idols who will fall this week.

The spring of the Flat season is when potential Group horses emerge like ducklings swimming in a rip tide to keep up with their mother's stern. Before the end of this month there will be others like Sacho paddling to stop being swept back over the weir.

1,000 GUINEAS (Newmarket, 5 May) Leading ante-post odds: Coral: 11-10 Bosra Sham, 4-1 Blue Duster, 8-1 Bint Salsabil & Bint Shadayid, 10-1 A Votre Sente.
Ladbrokes: 11-8 Bosre Sham, 7-2 Blue

Duster, 8-1 Bart Shadayid, 10-1 A Votre Sante, Birt Salsabi, William Hill: 11-8 Bosra Sham, 7-2 Blue Duster, 8-1 Bart Shadayid, 10-1 A Votre Sante, 12-1 Birt Salsabil. Results, page 26



NEWMARKET

2.35: ROVING MINSTREL, a high-

25: ROYING MINSTREE, 3 nighty creditable 11/4 lengths second to Stone Ridge in the Lincoln Handicap at Doncaster – having won the race in 1995 – would be better suit-

ed by a mile on softer ground but

should be fitter than most of these,

Monaassib and Tarawa will proba-

bly be better for the race and it is worth noting that the bottom two -Castel Rosselo and Otherhombus -

must carry much more than their true handicap weights.

3.05: FIRST ISLAND, who showed a good turn of foot to land the woneaster Mile, can make his fitness ing well and looks the danger.

3.40: DESERT BOY, who beat subsequent winner Leonine a shorthead in the prestigious Moorestyle Convivial Maiden Stakes at York last August, was a heavily-backed co-favourite for the Group Two Mill Reef Stakes at Newbury the following month but finished tailed-off. Obviously something was amiss there and it is may be worth giving this well-bred colt another chance. Horris Hill Stakes winner Tumbleweed Ridge looks weighted right up to his best while Cayman Kai and

Lucky Lionel are not sure to stay.

4.15: BEAUMONT, eight lengths second to Mentalasanythin at South-well in February, has a lively each way chance on the form he showed on his previous start when trounc-ing the same rival by eight lengths at Wolverhampton in January on only 5lb better terms. He goes on this ground. The big danger may be the lightly raced maiden Speed To Lead, who was a length second to the fair-ly useful Tinashaan at Yarmouth last ly useful Timashaan at Yarmouth last July before finishing 5½ lengths third to Al Widyan and Beauchamp Jade at Leicester last October.

Lionel flair can swing it

GREG WOOD

The biggest surprise on the first day of the Craven meeting was the sight of the queue at the ce-cream kiosk outnumbering that for the steaming seafood curry by at least 10 to one. But. while the Arctic winds are missing this year, one tradition at least seems sure to be resumed.

The Free Handicap threw up a Guineas winner 12 months ago - Harayir, who won the 1,000, finished second to Diffident - and even if today's field does not contain a future Classic winner or not, as three-yearold handicaps go it is an interesting contest, with several Group-class horses spread across a nine-pound range.

Tumbleweed Ridge took the Horris Hill Stakes last year, but it was a slowly-run race and probably unreliable form. There are doubts too about Cayman Kai, who may not stay, and World Premier, who suffered badly from colic last season, and Lucky Lionel (next best 3.40), the mount of Frankie Dettori. is the one to back. A Royal Ascot winner last year, this track and trip should suit him.

Two others to watch closely are Smart Alec (3.05), who returns after a long lay-off but has been working exceptionally well, and FAHS (nap 4.15), a intriguing recruit to Reg Akehurst's team. Off today's mark. Fahs would go close even without the Akehurst magic.

NEWMARKET

HYPERION 2.35 Roving Minstrel

4.45 Dowry 3.05 FIRST ISLAND (nap) 5.20 Mubarhin 3.40 Desert Boy

GOING: Goud to Firm.

STALLS: Centre, except 4.15 far side. DRAW ADVANTAGE: None.

If Right-hand course with 1 m 2f straight.

ECourse is SW of town on A1304. Bus link from Newmarket railway station (served by London, King's Cross). ADMISSION: Club \$14 (16 to 25-year-olds \$8); Grandstand & Peddock \$10 (16 to 25-year-olds \$5); Siver Ring \$3. CAR PARK: Members \$1; remainder free.

ELADING TRAINERS WITH RUNNERS: J Gooden—50 winners from 330 runners gives a success ratio of 14.9% and a loss to a \$1 level stake of \$70.49; H Geell—49 winners, 238 runners, 20.6%, -\$30.32; E Hannon—43 winners, 505 runners, 8.6%, -\$201.25; B Hills — 31 winners, 258 runners, 12.3%, -\$38.45.

B LEADING JOCKEYSE Pax Eddery—97 winners, 443 rides, 21.9%, -\$7.90; L Dettorl—87 winners, 477 rides, 14%, -\$1.29.78; W Swinhura—54 winners, 371 rides, 14.0%, -\$26.44; W Carson—49 winners, 445 rides, 11%, -\$08.70.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: None. WINNERS in LAST SEVEN DAYS: None.
LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Gothenburg (3.40) sent 200 miles fom M Johnston's Middeham stable in North Yorkshire.

GEOFFREY BARLING MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £6,000

ł	200	겝	added 3YO fillies 7f Penalty Value £4,815
i	1 3	10-	BALOUSTAR (USA) (174) (R M E Taylor) S Woods 8 11
ı			CD SUPER TARGETING (13) (Circular Distributors) M Charmon 8 11
ı	3	5-	CHARLOTTE CORDAY (177) (A E Opperhemer) G Wragg 8 11 G Williams (7) 11.
l	4		CHLOE'S ANCHOR & Fusiolo W O'Gorman 8 11Fmons O'Gorman 17
ı	5		CLASSIC ROYALE (USA) (Classe Bloodstock Pc) S Williams 8 11
ı	6	0-	GEDDY (202) (Lord Hartington) D Morley 8 11
ı	7	4-	HIPPY (166) (C) Self) C Britain 8 11
ı	8	2-	KERRY RING (196) (Shelifi Mohammed) J Gosdan 8 11 L Depted 12
ŀ	9		LA PELLEGRINA (R E Sangster) P Chapple-Hyam 8 11
ı	10	0-	NURSHARPA (187) (T D Hotand-Maryni J Farshave 8 11 D Harrison 14
ŀ			PERT PORT (211) (1stly Tennant) R Harmon 8 11Pat Eddery 10
ı	12 5	ю	POLISH WIDOW (13) (A E Oppenheimen G Wragg 8 11M Has 2
	13	4-	REALLY A DREAM (172) (Peter R Prochest) M Strute 8 11M J Kinana 15
ì	14		SALEEMAH (USA) (Hamdan Al Maktoum) J Dynlop B 11
	15		SINGAPORE STING (USA) (Bernard Gover) H Caci 8 11
	16	0-	TANDIADED (194) (Herritan Al Maktourn) P Walkyn 8 11R HEIS 8
	17	6	YOUNG ANNABEL (USA) (15) (Indent/Burns) C Dinjer 8 11
			= 17 declared =

— 17 declared — BETTING: 2-1, Kerry Ring, 5-1 Realty A Dream, 6-1 Singapore Sting, La Pallegina, 10-1 Salesmeh, Higgs, 14-1 Charlotte Corday, 16-1 Others.

1995: Warning Studows 3 8 11 B Doyle 7-1 (C E Brittan) 12 ran

Kerry Ring , a daughter of Sadier's Wells, was an unludy loser against Jackson Hill at Don-caster at the backend. Beaten a length after a tardy start, her experience puts her in the picture, though the eye drops on a couple of likely tasty newcomers in SALEBMARI and Sain-gapore Sting . John Dunloy's Storm Burl filly out of a Secretarist mere has been shaping with plenty of promise at home. Those who saw Henry Cecl's Magnificent Style ping home at Kempton on Easter Monday will be on the stable's Singapore Sting, who is by the sports-er Daylur out of the American champton mare, Ambassador Of Luck. Polish Widow is bet-ter than her Lebesser run a forthegit ago would suggest. Really A Dream and Hippy are others to have shown promises as a juventile, while newcomer La Pellagrisa, related to Gustess winner Las Mennas, halls from a yord in top form.

2.35 RACING & FOOTBALL OUTLOOK RATED HANDICAP C4 (CLASS B) £12,500 added 7f Penalty Value

	11	013113-	TARAMA (137) (C) (Mrs J Calagran) N Calagran 4 9 7
	2	10000-0	KAYVEE (25) (D) (J H Retimond-Watson) G Harvood 7 9 7
	3		MONASSED (1.79) (D) (Makeum Al Makeum) E Dunko 5 9 6
	4		BLOMBERS (179) (D) (Cornet Group Pict J Fanshave 4 9 3
	5	510063	ASTRAC (181) (D) (Cive Tocomb) R Alenury 5 9 3 T Ashley (7) 9
1	6	24020-2	ROVING MINISTREL (25) (Mrs J McMahon) B McMahon 5 9 1
	7	035300	PRINCERCON'S PAL (265) (Mass E G Macgagor) C Britain 5 9 1
1	8	063452-	EMERSING MARKET (196) (Philip Wirougston) J Duniop 4 8 13
1	9	546014	SASSEDO (USA) (145) (C) (S Fusaxi) W O'Gorman 6 8 11
1	10	220050-	AMRAK AJEEB (179) (D) (A Mezzi) 8 Hambury 4 8 10
			CHRISTIMAS (CSS (13) (Peter R Program) R Harmon 4 8 5
			PREMA COMENNA (268) (Dr Frank S B Cherr) S Woods 4 8 4 W Woods 11
			CASTEL ROSSELO (14) (D) (T J Danson) R Hams 6 8 4A Markony 4
			ORTHORHOMBUS (13) (D) (Alexander MacGilloray) D Congrue 7 8 4
			es desired

num weigtr; det 4b. Ture handicap weignes: Prima Comine det 2b. Caster Rosselo 7st 8b, Onhorb RNC: 4-1 Rovlag Minstrel, 9-2 Monwessib, 5-1 Tarawa, 8-1 Diomberg, Emerging Mari c, Kaywen, 2-1-1 others : Governor George 4 9 4 Pat Eddery 13-2 (J L Dunkop) 21 ran

FORM GUIDE FORM GUIDE.

BLOMBERG Is in with a shout after running away with a Doncaster meiden first time up last season. He came to beet Two O'Clock Jump in the Easter Stakes at Kempton afterwards, but was just outstayed over that mile. The ability was retrained after the absence and he was a shade unbucky to be bearten by Monasetb at Doncaster (7f) in October. He will have progressed from three to four so has every chance of reversing the form on the 2b worse terms. Monasetb will again set them all a task on the ground - and his stablemate literanal ran a cracker here yesterday in the Abemant, the sharper trip maybeat the improved Taraware, expecially with the ground riding so fast yesterday. Roving Ministrel so nearly landed the Uncoin double with a fine second to Stone Ridge, Hers a rock-solid sort, his stable had a winner at Warwick on Saturday, and only the in-form Celeptal Key beat him at this distance at Newat Warwick on Saturday, and only the m-form Celestral Key beat him at this distance at Nev bury last June. Emerging Market is a snip on his three-length second to Sergeyev at Brighto

3.05 EARL OF SEFTON STAKES (CLASS A) (Group 3) £30,000 added 1m 1f Penalty Value £19,188

2	3/15016-	DESERT \$HOT (228) (CD) (Makapum Al Makapum) M Stoute 6 8 13
3		LEAR WHITE (USA) (8) (General Horse Advertising SRL) P Kelleway 5 8 13R Coch
ă		BEAUCHMAP MAZZ (25) (E Pensar) J Duning 4 8 10
5	32452-1	FIRST ISLAND (27) (Moles Racing) G Wrag 4 8 10
5	216210	GABR (193) (C) (Hamden Al Melagum) R Amstrong 6 8 10
7		RESTRUCTURE (187) (CD) (Martin Myes) Mrs J Cecil 4 8 10
B		SACRAMENT (348) (Creeley Park Stud) M Stoop 5 8 10
5		SMART ALEC (550) (C) (Garald Leigh) L Current 4 8 10
•		= 9 declared =
	TIME E.S	Partendura 11.4 Ent Island &1 Iven 0.9 Parent Club &1 others

FORM GLIDE

WORLD PREMIER, a proven performer when fresh and a Royal Ascot winner, is the fancy at decent odds. Some of his rivals have superior form, but he looked a hrindy sort when landing the Chesham Stakes and looks raised on to appreciate this seventh hundry on his July Stakes running when third, concenting 3tb, to Tagula with Luckly Llone (20) better today) five lengths behind him. World Premier was further behind Tagula in the Pitx Morny at Deauville. five tengths behind him. World Premier was further behind Tagula in the Pitt Morry at Deauwise, though still two lengths better than Lucky Llonel, but he returned home with colds so probably didn't give his true running. The form book says a win for Tambleweed Ridge, who has won on both fast and soft ground. The Horris Hill win in the mud was particularly impressive, though het hard to lenock on the firm also after his fighting second to Royal Applicase in the dimerack at York with Gothesberg over four lengths behind and now 8b better off. Richard Hermon has a preference for Caymani Kail over Lucky Lonel. The part best each other task year.

. K Fellog 7

3.40 EUROPEAN FREE HANDICAP (CLASS A) (Listed) C4

FORM GUIDE

Smart Alec will have a strong following on the comeback attempt after the stable's win with the impressive Lucky Di in the Magnotia Stakes at Kempton on Easter Monday. Lucky Di had been off the course for almost a year, but it's been two seasons since we have seen Smart Alec. Unbeaten as a juvenitie with two classy course wins, Smart Alec is reported back in top condition after his injury a year ago, but he has it to prove whereas DESERT SHOTIS a past winner of the race and totally at home on this type of ground. Overhury was all the rage 12 months ago, but Desert Shot go to him inside the final furing and bettied on strongly for a head success. He has a 3to penalty this time but still appeals, and his stablemate Sacrament looks suspect at this tip on his first start since cracking a knee bone. First falland has a turn of foot and duly saw off Wigara and Niwaamis in the Listed Doncaster Mile. Third in the Jersey Stakes at Royal Ascot, he is going back there in June in an attempt to emulate the stablets Notolitie in the Group Tivo Queen Ann Stakes so Geoff Winger must rate him highly. Listo must surely find the tip too sharp, Beamehamp Jazz looks out of his depth, white Lear White showed nothing in the Easter Stakes.

Selection: DESERT SHOTI

4
(5) 3
R500 2
5 مط
loci 15
ter 11
1 ene
lapy 16
Reid 4
idery 7
loyle 8
(5) 13
iii 14
гава 6
ers 10
ed 12
120.0

12-1 duners 1995: Parthan Spungs 4 10 0 L Decton 3-1 (/ Gosden) 20ran

SPIED TO LEAD ran well against her better class stablemate Al Widyan at Leicester in October and also against Tinastraan at Yarmouth so might just have got in here light off a rating of 76. Fails is interesting on his first run for Reg Aleihurst since a maiden with over today's ing or 76. Fairs is interesting on his hist run for keg alternurs, since a malicen win over todays tip at Transier for Kevin Prendengss. Meghodot is the type to win handicaps this season. Beaten in the mud at Musselburgh at the backend, she is best judged on her Goodwood win from Snowy Petrel. Bendleet goes well for Frankle Detron and was in good form early last season. Doo't Shaot Fairles was a three-times winner last term and Progression will like the ground after his Goodwood and York wins last season (trained then by Pat Hastan) and he's sharp from the all-weather.

4.45 NGK SPARK PLUGS BARTLOW MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £6,000 added 2YO fillies 5f Penalty Value £4,113 CARMINE LAKE (R E Sangsien P Chapple-Hyam 8 11. DAME LAKEA (A 1 Monson) P Cole 8 11. DOWNY (11) Sheveley Park Study R Hannon 8 11. SILCA KEY SILCA (Alonige Racing Lumbed) M Charmon 8 11. SILCA KEY SILCA (Inimes of Wigen) W O'Gorman 8 11. WOODERRIE (USA) (ILIDANO GRUCC) M Bell 8 11.

SETTING: 9-4 Carmine Lake, 11-4 Dowry, 7-2 Dame Laura, 4-1 Woo 22-1 Simply Times 1995: Incavilica 2 8 11 M J Kinare 3-1 (D R Lodar) 11 Rin

FORM GUIDE

Downy's debut form at Kempton was boosted when Masterstroke (third) won at Binghton and she is bound to improve after running green. But Michael Bell's WOODERINE could be the one—the Woodman filly being a half-astier to Italian Guineas winner Ancestral Dancer. Carmine Lake is by the specifier Royal Academy out of a mare who won over six furloring is a juvenile. Desire Laura, another designer of Royal Academy, is more stoutly bred on the dam's ode, while Mick Charmon has reported that Silica Key Silica may be better for this strouction. Simply Times has a pacey pedigree and from the stable that had an early juvenile winner here last year in Foreman.

5.20 WOOD DITTON STAKES (CLASS D) £7,000 added 3YO 1m Penalty Value £5,800 J Periarry Wallie 2-2,800 ALZELS (Mrs B Surnet) C Horgan 9 0 AREOREAS (B H Yosk) C Britain 9 0 ARED AL OLA (1854) (Sheikh Ahmed A Maistoum) A Stewert 9 0 CHARRIMODO JACK (1854) (T J Dawson R Haros 9 0 CHARRIMODO JACK (1854) (T J Dawson R Haros 9 0 FARSAN (Pruce A A Fissell H Cest 9 0 GELLINER (K Abdulla) B Hills 9 0 HAREB (1854) (Zha A Galadin) J Hills 9 0 HAREB (1854) (Zha A Galadin) J Hills 9 0 HASSAGICHOMERT (1854) (M Habor) P Chappic-Hyem 9 0 MANANO II (1854) (Palmer Al Makintum P Webban 9 0 ...J Quit

1995: Solor Fight 3 9 0 Pat Eddery 13-2 (6 W Huls) 10 ran FORM GUIDE

There is a good word for Mubartain , who has been impressing his trainer on the gallops He's a son of Saver Hawk out of an unraced mare and a full-brother to the top-class Amer-He's a son of Silver Hawk, out of an unraced mare and a full-brother to the top-class American cott Daneal, John Gosten uns the nicely-bred Sheutou, an Alleged cott out of 0h So Sharp's daughter, Shanna, who stayed further after wirning over today's trip as a juvenile. Heny Cacit's last numer in this, Opera Score, menaged only bourth to Auport, but he went on to with the Predomantee Stakes at Goodwood the following month: It goes without asying that he must hold CHABROL in righ esteem, the coit being a son of El Gran Senor out of a well-releted mare. Barry Halls hes stated that Garilliver will come on for the run and, being a son of Rambow Quest, the coit would appreciate out in the ground. Histoglicument has both pace and stamina in his pedigree, while David Loders Mascharellian filly Whitewater Affair is out of a dam who also won at this distince. Michael Stoute's Machiavellian filly Whitewater Affair is out of a venning dam at this trip, while others to take the eye are Amfartas and Blassald, the latter being out of a helf-sister to Northern Dancer.

Selection: CHABROL

PONTEFRACT

2.45 Wait For Rosie 3.20 Sondos (nb) 3.50 Axford 4.25 Pine Essence 5.00 Tasliya 5.30 Dana Point 6.00

GOING: Good. STALLS: Inside. DEAW ADVANTAGE: Low mumbers best over 5f.

DEAW ADVANTAGES: Low Manters to be seen to be a large manufacture of Left-hand, undulating course.

Barecourse is a mile north west of town on ANS9. Pentefract, (Monkfull) rail station (regular service from Leeds and Wakefield) is over a mile away. Tanshelf rail station (service from Wakefield) adjoins course. ADMISSION: Club \$12; Paddock \$8; Silver Ring \$3.50. CAR PARE: Third Ring, car with four occupants, \$5, plus \$2 at unrustiles; remainder free.

THE PARTY & CONSTRUCTION

BLINKERED FOR THE FIRST TIME: Absolute Ruler (4.26), Oakbury (5.30). WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None. LONG-DESTANCE BUNNERS: Brilles Booster (6.00) sent 254 miles by combe from Huntshaw, Devoc.

2.45 MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS E) £4,200 added 270 5f

55 CLASSIC PARTIPOSER (L1) M W Essenby 9 0 ...
4 FAIN OF VENT-ANDA (25) C Allen 9 0 ...
4 FOOT BATTALION (20) R Hollinshead 9 0
FOR OLD TIMES SAKE J Borry 9 0 ...
D HIGHLAND PASS (28) M McCorreck 9 0

.....C Hodgson 1F Lynch (5) 2J Carroll 10

3.20 RACING UNANTANA 57,000 added 3YO filles 6f

RACING CHANNEL HANDICAP (CLASS D)

62 NERVOUS REX (15) W Mar 9 0... 4 OUR FUTURE (8) M Johnston 9 0... PANDICULATION E Weymes 9 0 ... 0 REBUILE (11) R Johnson Hougiston

		Charles (nad tree) i charl 2 6 th """ me-" charles 75	
7	00-	FLOCHECK (USA) (174) J Dunton 3 8 10T Sprake 4	
8	0-5	NEEDLE MATCH (15) C Wall 3 8 10	
9	00-	CAPSTONE (175) W Javes 3 8 5	
10		KATHRYN'S PET (20) Mrs M Reveloy 3 8 5	
11		LEBERGRECE (FR) (177) E Dunios 3 8 5	
12		SWISTINESS HERSELF (197) M Ryan 3 8 5	
	-	- 12 declared -	
BETT	NG: 3-1/	orford, 9-2 South See Bubble, 9-1 Election Day, 8-1 Hogalty, Sweet-	
		Kathryn's Pet, Needle Match, 10-1 others	
		,,,,	
_	$\overline{}$	COCCUT OFFICIAL HANDINGS OF ACC OF	
4	25	OSSETT SELLING HANDICAP (CLASS G)	
4	.25	OSSETT SELLING HANDICAP (CLASS G) £3.000 added 1m 4vds	
4		OSSETT SELLING HANDICAP (CLASS G) £3,000 added 1m 4yds	
	40-4365	NEGENT TIME: (47) A Streets: 4 10 0C Teagles: (5) 8	
2 :	40-4365 1-30420	RECRIT TIME: (47) A Streets: 4 10 0C Teagle: (5) 8 RUTAL BACH (19) (D) R Ingam 4 9 10Declar O'Shee 15	
3	40-4365 1-30420 50-0	NEGRIT TIME. (47) A Streets: 4 10 0 C Tangle: (5) 8 FOTAL BACH (19) (D) R Ingram 4 9 10 Declar 0*Stee 15 FRAMED (21) S Williams 6 9 9 K Darley 6	
3 4	40-4365 1-30420 50-0 240435	NACHT TIME (47) A Streets 4 10 0	
3 4 5	40-4365 1-30420 50-0 240435 5000-	NGAH TIME (47) A Species 4 10 0	
3 4 5 6 3	40-4365 1-30420 50-0 240435 5000- 3026-00	NACHT TIME (47) A Streets 4 10 0	

3.50 LADY BALK MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) (DIV I) £4,400 added 1m 2f 6yds

[1.25	OSSETT SELLING HANDICAP (CLASS G) £3,000 added 1m 4yds
1	40-4365	NEGRIT TIME (47) A Streets: 4 10 0C Tenger (5) 8
2	1-30420	TOTAL BACH (19) (D) R Ingam 4 9 10 Declar O'Shee 15
3	50-0	FRAMED (21) S Williams 6 9 9 K Darley 6
4	240435	HAWAWAM (61) (D) E Alston 10 9 8S D Williams 20
5		MY BRAVE BIRL (203) 8 Returned 4 9 7
6	3026-00	SELF EXPRESSION (8) (D) (BP) Mrs J Ramssian 8 9 7 K Palton 9
7		JUST FLAMENCO (75) (C) M Ryan 5 9 6P Bloomfield 3
В	6-41613	PRINE ESSENCE (LISA) (16) (C) (D) J Eyre 5 9 6R Lippin 5
9	4/0-0440	TIMELY EXAMPLE (USA) (47) B Cambridge 5 9 5 Adams 17
10		TANDRIDGE (19) J Jesiers 4 9 1 Fortune 19
		BATTLE COLOURS (16) (D) Don Einesa 78 13 Non Tribler 14
		NOEPROB (13) (D) R Hodges 6 8 13 D R McCabe (3) 11

5.00 WEFT GATE LIMITED STAKES (CLASS D)
£5,100 added 3YO 1m 4yds 1- ARABAN STORY (272) (od Hamington 8: 6354- CHEERER, ASPECT (187) E Dunice 8: 11. 21300- FLYING NORTH (188) As M Resety 8: 11. 10640-0 TOO HASTY (9) E Exstery 8: 11. 2210- LOVELY PROSPECT (187) R Guest 8: 8

Calhene 5 _M Sirch 6 352- THREESOME (USA) (204) L Cuman 8 8... - 7 declared -

5.30 GARFORTH HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,200 added 1m 2f 8yds 6001-40 MEDIA EXPRESS (47) M Brotan 4 9 10 ... den 4 9 10 _

11 40/-02 PENONEWITION (USA) (9) / Baking 4 9 2
12 (RED)2 AND CHENA (IR) A Home 4 Q 7 C Com. 49
23 14402-2 CLERNINEL NEWS (128 (0) A Streeter 6 9 7 C. Tanatan (C) A
14 D4225-D CURTELACE (27) (DLMrs M Readon 4 D C R Francis 4 D
15 34220-0 PLYAMRY BLUES SO Mis M Region 4 9 0 Page McKenne 18
35 380400 LABROD (USA) DSR REPORT 6.8 12 Reclus Offices 14
17 5222/0-3 CHELY LAD (18) (D) M Rom 5.8 11 D Heles 6
17 5222/0-3 CHELY LAD (16) (D) M Ryon 5 8 11 D Biggs 6 18 001346- OUR MAIN MAIN (138) (CD) R Wheeler 6 8 11 Date Gloson 19
19 31165-5 SPITFIRE BRIDGE (21) (D) M McCormack 4 8 9 M Block 11
-19 declared -
SETTING: 4-1 Carlin Brigante, 5-1 Locorotondo, 11-2 Denomination, 6-1 Onli-
work, 7-1 Ciburnel News, Segala, 10-1 Battleship Bruce, 12-1 others
1 2 50/ DATE / 11 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
6 00 LADY BALK MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) (DIV
6.00 F) £4,400 added 1m 2f 6yds
6.00 LADY BALK MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) (DIV f) £4,400 added 1m 2f Syds
1 0423-50 RAFFLES ROOSTER (S) A Newcombe 4 9 13 D R MeCabo (T) 6.
1 0423-50 RAFFLES ROOSTER (5) A Newcombe 4 9 13
1 0423-50 RAFFLES ROOSTER (8) A Newcombe 4 9 13
1 0423-6D RAFFLES ROOSTER (5) A Newcombe 4 9 13 D R McCabe (5) 6 2 0- REX MUNICA (607) F Eners 4 9 13 P McCabe (5) 2 3 54-0 (ASRANNA (22) W Storay 4 9 8 J Pennaling 1 4 BLURRED M Tompkins 3 8 10 J Report
1 0423-60 RAFFLES ROOSTER (5) A Newcombe 4 9 13 D R McCabe (5) 6 2 04 REX MUNIOL (507) P Evens 4 9 13 P McCabe (5) 3 3 540 (MSRANA (22) W Sporey 4 9 8 I Femalog 1 4 BLURREDO M Templates 3 8 10 N Day 2 5 0- DOCTOR BREEN RFG 0.877 Lord Parametron 3 8 10 These 5
1 0423-60 RAFFLES ROOSTER (S) A Newcombe 4 9 13
1 0423-60 RAFFLES ROOSTER (5) A Newcombe 4 9 13 D R MicCabe (3) 6 2 0- REX MUNICI (607) P Eners 4 9 13 P MicCabe (3) 2 3 54-0 [KASRANA (22) W Story 4 9 8 I Penning 1 4 BLURRED M Tompkins 3 8 10 IN 10 9 5 0 DOCTOR BREEN (FR) (187) Lord Huntergion 3 8 10 T heas 5 0 DOM WITD R Charleton 3 8 10 T Sprake 10 7 4 KASS ALHANKA (257) M Store 3 8 10 DESTINATION BROWN AND RESERVED (187) LORD MICKEN DESTINATION CONTROL OF THE MICKEN DESTINATION CON
1 0423-50 RAFFLES ROOSTER (5) A Newcombe 4 9 13
1 0423-60 RAFFLES ROOSTER (5) A Newcombe 4 9 13 D R MicCabe (3) 6 2 0- REX MUNICI (607) P Eners 4 9 13 P MicCabe (3) 2 3 54-0 [KASRANA (22) W Story 4 9 8 I Penning 1 4 BLURRED M Tompkins 3 8 10 IN 10 9 5 0 DOCTOR BREEN (FR) (187) Lord Huntergion 3 8 10 T heas 5 0 DOM WITD R Charleton 3 8 10 T Sprake 10 7 4 KASS ALHANKA (257) M Store 3 8 10 DESTINATION BROWN AND RESERVED (187) LORD MICKEN DESTINATION CONTROL OF THE MICKEN DESTINATION CON

CHELTENHAM 2.20 Air Shot 2.55 Headwind 3.30 Holland House 4.00 Needwood Muppet 4.35 Spree Cross 5.10 Valley Garden

Left-hand, galloping course with stiff fences. Uphill run-in of 240pt. Esti-hand, galloping course with sun tences, upon nun-in of 240ya.

Racecourse is 1m N of town off A435. Bos inde from Chekenhara railway station (served by Bristol, Birmingham and London, Paddington) 2m away.

ADMISSION: Club & Tautersalls combined £12 (juniors, 16-24 years, £8); Foster's Enclosure Sh. CAR PARK: Pree.

WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Youbetterbelievelt (2.55) won at Worcester last Wednesday, Hops And Pope (4.00) won at Chekenham last Thurs-

LONG-DISTANCE EUNNERS: Copperburst (5.10) sent 318 miles by W Kemp from Duns stable, Borders, Valley Garden (5.10) sent 286 miles from J J O'Neill's Stellan Wood End stable in Cambria, Enscally (5.10) sent 170 miles from Miss L Siddall's Colton stable in North Yerkshire. MENTE NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E)

0.00	EOUESTRALITE NOTICE OF	
	£5,000 added 2m 5f	
1 4211P	1 TRYING AGUN (27) (0) D GROODS 8 11 11	R Johnson
เกณหวจ	2 AND 25103 (34) D (42) DOWN: *	. DW
3 1327-4	2 AIR SHOT (34) D Nichelson 6 11 7 1- MO WIZJARD (28) J GROW 9 11 7 5 TUTHEWOODS (38) N Twisten-Davies 8 11 7	C
A DIES	THOUSENDOOS (36) N WEST-LEASES O 12 1	13-5 Harley

i, a-	7	18190' Outlie Childich Th. I Rindes	
			_
	2.55	WEATHERBYS NOVICE HURDLE (CLAS added 2m 1f	SS D) £5,00
1	1.56215	AROUND THE GALE (39) (D) (SIF) D Gendrifo 5 11 5	
2	25-1302	CAROLO (FR) (15) (SF) C Brooks 6 11 5	
3		HEADWIND (27) J Giford 5 11 5 Lord McHurrough (26) J Novice 6 11 5	
4	2-20015	THE TEST (41) TO SEE U II	K race
5	212743	TIGHT FIST (41) (D) Miss H knagt; 6 11.5	
6 7	2201	BRANCHAND (LA) P Richers 7 11 0	
ģ	ino	CONFERENCE (MA) R Budder 5 11 0	9 0
9	•	DANNICUS N Babbago 5 11 0	. P Domeson
10	- 0	EDEN ROC (SD & De Haan 6 11 0	W Mass
ĭ	Ō	EDEN ROC (61) 5 De Haan 6 11 0	
12	2.030	GOVERNOR DANKEL (22) J O'Shop 5 11 0	Ichael Breance
蕗		HENRUS PORT Martyn Mende 6 11 0	
14	10	LIBERDARIAN (B4) O Sherwood 6 11 0	J A MicCard
15	024	MELLERSFORD (27) N Gasalee 5 11 0	C Linnell
15	. 4	OATS ALOFT (26) Capt T Forster 5 11 0	S W/m
17	- 20	PENERIDGE PLACE (36) G Johnson Houston 5 11 0	A Thousak
18	0	RISING MAN (44) A Janus 5 11 0	
19		ROLLCAL R Ainer 6 11 0	S McNe
20	33-134	SEASONAL SPLENDOUR (80) (D) M Pipe 6 11 0	_D Bridevate
21	0.0515	SUPREME HORSEAN (S) J Protering 6 11 0	_T Descende C
21 22	. 0	YOUNG TYCOON (129 A.) Weson 5 11 0	L Have
23	36-004	BRLOWA (4B) S Christian 6 10 9	لوفا كــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــ
24 -		CAPE COLONY J O'SHIB 4 10 8.	D Wabsh (
25	3₽	LITTLE SHEFFORD (28) Mass H Yould 4 10 8	J R Karana
		- 25 declared -	-
Œ	IMG 5-1	Seasonal Spicadour, 11-2 Carolo, 7-1 Headwind, 15-2	Around The Gal
You	الجاريين والإوا	ruck, 12-1 Lord Michensongh, 14-1 Libertarian, Tight F	ist, 16-1 others

12 20 HOWARD E PERRY HUNTER CHASE (CLASS H)

ŀ	3.3U	£4,0	00 ac	ided 4	m 1f			(0000)
1 2	1-263F1 1/21-151	ROLLA	es harv No hou	(E)	D Williams 8 Character 1	0127		Mr C Vigors (
4	10-PQ2	FARM	10 (8) (8) SE-2444	(40) W T 13 Fall R	ahogis 11 1 anav 11 12	23 3		W Telbwight (Mr C Ward (
5 6	21P/75-P 614R10F	CLARE	MANUE MAN (1)	(C) (C) Ni Thers	S Albon 12 11 123-Danies 8	20 120		cirer Martis (Mr A Rabins (
7.	<u>. </u>	LONES	ONE TR		(334) NE N	andy Hand 7	120	Ales A House
	٠.	٠.	٠.	:				

0	8 1F1A.52- 1	NEARLY SPLENDID (478) (CD) \$ Stevens 11 12 0	Mr T Greed
•	9 3404.03	NEW MELL HOUSE (11) Mess S Cook 13 12 0	Mr P Scott
	10 PP3/436	PMCO'S BOY (140 R York 11 12 0	Nr P York
•	11 P51-530 1	PACO'S BOY (14) R York 11 12 0	Mr R Hicks
y	12 433//5/-	SPACE MAN (771) Mes Scarles J Crew 13 12 0	Mr F Creer
•	13 PMPEP-5	150A (FR) (8) A Chamberlain 11 12 0	
ď	14 042 005 1	WOODLANDS CENSURE (9) P Preshaid 11 12 0	Mr J Pritcherd
ď		= 14 declared =	
7	BETTENE: 9-4 H	otand House, 5-2 Hermes Harvest, 5-1 Clare Man,	10-1 Nextly Sel
y	dd, 14-1 Leae	some Traveller, 20-1 others	
•	•	•	
7	4001	YNX HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS B) 2m 5f 110yds	£7,500 adds
	4. 00 ;	Ef 44/bule	
)		au or trolas	
)	1 110-00P /	#1156ATJON (20) (C) M Ploe 6 12 0	D Bridged
	2 46FOU1 I	N1156AT(ON (20) (C) M Pipe 6 12 0	Nik P Headey
,	3 4-OP531 5	EUN SURFER (FR) (21) (D) Capt T Foster 8 11 8 FONER SKY (19) (CD) O Sherwood 5 11 0	S Wym
Ś	4 11125P F	ATHER SICY (19) (CD) () Sherwood 5 11 0	A McCircl
	5 75,0300 0	NOTES SELTIED AN AN PUBLISHED R 10 19	D Fodt
i	6 3/12P3-P M	MANSIN (83) C Egeton 10 10 9	
	7 041-049 6	ASTI F SPORT (11) (RP III Australia 10 10 7	D.) Bench
í	8 221,012 1	457 MW (23) (C) G Hansood 5 10 7	R Danasion
;	9 4/54000 8	SERVICION METERET MEN & 1 Wilson 9 10 5	L Harv
	40 D4DE211 C	ALMOUTH BAY (22) (87) S. Standood 7 10 0	
:	11 212212 1	RAMORE PROCES AS & Daked 6 10.0	A P MeC
:	42 270201 8	SELECTIONS BOOK PRODUCT OF THE PRODU	S Con
	42 701// NI E	SAME E (EA AN II Company & 10 A	C limit
	14 050E10 M	ROBLE (54) (0) N Gassies 6 10 0	. D.
•	15 01/40012 B	MQB (11) P Richers 5 10 0	e c
	D 3-2003 H	- 15 dectared =	
•		= 15 OGCAPUS = - COL The house making Extracts And Oct 118	Sound Come
	wanten meda	10st. True handlesp weights: Falmouth Bay 9st 11th	, muniya uruma : hah n → 4%
	אוניים, אוניים	Point Set 11th, Brissle Set 9th, Major Nova Set 6th, Paps And Pops, 8-1 Sen Surfer, 7-1 Allegation, 15-2	Separate Cares (
,	BETTING 9-2 H	ps And Pops, 8-1 Sen Sures, 7-1 American, 15-2	Annay's Caste, o
	Metalik, 10-1 En	chale, Castle Secret, 12-1 Father Sky, Forest Feat	mu' 12-T 601012
!	1 25	IOLMAN CUP HANDICAP CHASE (CL.)	433 U) £ <i>(,</i> 00
!	T.OO 2	dded 2m 110vds	-
ı			

1 323012 MEDINAS SINAN SONG (18) (D) R Hodges 8 12 0 _ 2 224300 SPREE CHOSS (18) (D) Mrs D Hare 10 12 0 _ 3 25/4-50 SURE MEDIL (18) (D) D McCart 13 11 9 _ _ _ 4 31,444 MISTER 9007 (4) (D) J Wrg 10 11 9 _ _ _ _ _ 4

	
7)	5 OU4533 JAMES THE FIRST (4) OD P Nichols 8 11 4 A P MeCov
7)	5 0U4533 JAMES THE FIRST (4) (D) P Nichols 8 11 4 A P MeCoy 6 2(2-21P1 SPWMANS STEEL (5) (D) P Routing 9 10 8 (6ex) \$ Burrough
7)	7 451325 DR ROCKET (2) (D) R Dicker 11 10 0
7)	- 7 declared -
7)	Minimum weight: 10st. True hendicap weight: Dr Rocket 9st 8th.
7)	BETTING: 100-30 Medicas Swan Song, 7-2 Mister Oddy, 4-1 Spree Cross, 9-2 James
7)	The First, 7-1 Spluning Steel, 12-1 Dr Rocket, 25-1 Sure Metal
_	THE WORLD HANDLE IN ACC DUCATION
•	5.10 NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £4,000 added 2m 5f 110yds
	added 2m 5t 110yds
d	1 0-2405 GARRANN (26) N Hemisson 6 11 11
~	1 0-2405 GARNANN (26) N Hemisson 6 11 11
	3 D-2P1P2 Will I FLY (32) (0)) Long 10 11 9
er	4 00-3534 TELLICHERRY (25) Mass if Knight 7 11 7
5)	5 404PCR OUARRY HOUSE (7) Major D Chancel 8 11.6
	6 042951 0ATRS ROSE (25) (D) M Shappard 5 11 5P Carbony
y	6 042P51 DATES ROSE (25) (D) M Shappard 6 11 5 P Carbarry 7 0F6-111 HALE DERSONG (32) (D) N Teston-Dates 6 11 4 C Llesselly in
Š	8 550052 AMBER SPARK (16) D Gardolfo 7 11 2
ý	9 0-400 QUICK QUOTE (61) Mrs McKie 6 10 13 Harvey
Á	8 550052 AMBER SPARK (18) D Gondofo 7 11.2
ty .	11 P-05P82 VALLEY BARDEN (41) O'Nell 6 10 11 A P INCCOV
	12 4-45300 ROWESTAR (39) / King 5 10 10
7	13 0-30603 EL FREDOME 88 JOH 6 10 R
7	14 0004 SUPREME SPRET (11) Mrs D Hans / 10 5
ě	15 0034P4 COPPERMIRST (16) W Kemp 5 10 0
10	16 CORROL RASCALLY (1) Mars Series & 4 to 3 (Sec)
	17 64000 ALPHA, LEATHER (S2) L Grassick 5 10 0 V Slattery
3)	12 POP RAGGED XINGOOM (S&) C Eduton (10 ()
	19 Pl.00030, MP PORDE FTOW (200 & Parthering 7 1(1 ()
Ħ	20 URSPP4 ALRION (11) C Weadon 7 10 0
	21 35-000P GENERA'S WAGER (26) Mark Campion 6 10 0 Railton
1	22 3-FPGS GIENEROOK PORT (32) A J Wilson 7 10 0
	23 3US F3. SPA WELLY (9) 1 Protecting 8 10 0
	24 OCCORD ROMETS REALIFEMENT ON G Release 6 10 0
0	25 POSPR GUNNER B LUCKY (9) J Tuck 5 10 0
	≥ 25 declared =
	Minimum weight, 10st. True handisap weights: Alpha Leather 9st 8tb. Ragged Wington 9st
y	7th, Mr Poppleton & Alfon 9st 4th, German's Wager 9st, Glenbrook Fort 8st 11th. Spa Relly
7	8st 9th, Bonka Blakency 8st 7th, Gunner B Lucky 8st 29b.
	SETTING: 11-2 Haile Derring, 6-1 Oatis Rose, 7-1 Tellicherry, 8-1 Carrello, 10-1 Supreme
ď.	Spirit, 12-1 Ausber Spark, Valley Garden, 14-1 Quarry Hoese, Rascally, 16-1 others



rea, 5-1 Old Irish, 6-1 Velmez, 8-1 Docto

RACELINE



ifi 'n٤

lohnson is

banned for

the games

Even by the impoverished standards of sports administrators, the RFU's botched attempts to oversee the move to professionalism have set new standards for incompetence, argues Steve Bale

Rugby union: how not to run a sport

given up wondering what the next day will bring. Last year he actually felt modestly pleased with himself when he was appointed to succeed Dudley Wood, secretary of the Rugby Football Union, and it has been all downhill since then. At one and the same time English rugby has landed itself in internecine turmoil and the international doghouse.

As an exercise in incompetence, in how not to run a sport, England's reluctant attempt to come to terms with the start of professionalism, and with it the end of 120 years of history, would take some beat-ing. These days Hallett, the most affable of fellows, is going round with a permanently haunted look, assailed inside and outside the RFU, inside and outside England.

'The RFU is at the least guilty of hubris in holding such a hostage to fortune'

If he now wished he had stayed in the Navy, he could be forgiven, since nothing he ever saw in the service could have prepared him for the ferocious politicisation of rugby that has accompanied professionalism. However it has done so, the RFU has succeeded in antagonising everyone.

Not content with the seismic internal split which may be about to lose it its most eminent clubs, it has now so antagonised the other home unions - which, let's face it, congenitally despise the English anyway - that it may he about to be kicked out of the

Five Nations' Championship. Yesterday the Welsh, Irish and Scots together announced they would reconsider the format of the championship - with the plain intention of finding a way of expelling the pertidious English for their brazen attempt to corner the lion's share



Ancient history? Steve Williams, of Wales, falls to stop England's Rory Underwood in the Five Nations' Championship; next year he may not have to try

Lion's share? The Lions may be among the first victims.

Anyone who imagines this to be no more than a cross-border tiff about admittedly large sums of money - anything from £130m to £225m has been bandied about as the overall going rate - has a poor knowledge not only of rugby history but of history itself. Jack Rowell, the England manager, is fond of talking about the history that goes into Five Nations matches and when he does so he means Culloden and not the

So the idea of putting the ineffably superior English in their place is older by a few centuries than rugby. But even within the specifically rugby context the RFU, by demanding a rise from 25 to 60 per cent of the proceeds from the joint home unions' television contract and then claiming everyone will be better off, is at the very least guilty

hostage to fortune. To understand we need to go back to 1884 when a dispute between England and Scotland led

of hubris in holding such a

International Board as an arbitrator - without the RFU, which would not join on the basis of equal representation with Wales, Scotland and Ireland. It did not do so until 1890 when finally offered six members against two each for the other

The resentment, for this and other perceived indignities, lingers. In 1911 England voluntarily gave up two seats but it was 1948, when Australia, New Zealand and South Africa were graciously admitted with

lish representation came down to that of their neighbours. France, by the way, had to wait It might have been thought

that with a war on one front against its big clubs - the last thing the RFU needed was to open a second front, though in fact the row over TV money was heralded two years ago when the RFU started negotiations in similar vein but eventually backed down under precisely the threat that yesterday became a reality.

caught on the hop by the Intime when the need to pay for Twickenham makes it desperate to grub up all the money it can get, for the RFU make a virtue

of going it alone from the RFU. Something here does not add up. As for its local difficulties, it is totally bemusing that a body that at one time was known as the most decisive, businesslike and far-seeing in Europe should have turned itself into such an object of derision. To complain

of going it alone from the oth-

er home unions at the same time

as telling the clubs of the folly

ternational Board's decision last August to abandon amateurism is a tired explanation

Let us look no further than

and certainly not an excuse.

Photograph: Empics

the other side of the world. Whether or not the IB had permitted professionalism, the Wallabies, All Blacks and Springboks as well as the provincial structure underpinning them would have gone pro anyway, so when the IB made its fateful decision all of the above were immediately up,

The result has been the dazzling Super 12-series, a Jaguar among competitions compared with the jalopy that passes for its nearest English equivalent. The clubs who are at logger-heads with the RFU may appear to want to do something about that, but sometimes you feel the mass membership of the union would like nothing better than to rid themselves of these same clubs and so of the awful taint of professionalism.

in the modern, multinational rugby world this is an utterly untenable position but in English rugby it would provide an explanation of sorts for the obstructiveness of which Cliff Brittle stands accused in his role as chairman of the RFU executive. One member of that executive has seriously suggested

'Rugby union's amateurs are making an unholy mess of professionalism'

to me that there is a hidden agenda to oust the major clubs as a precisely similar purification exercise to that which entailed the departure of the northern clubs 101 years ago.

Whatever, it is no way to run a business - which is how the RFU and the top clubs are nowadays obliged to regard themselves. Hence the reason the clubs want more cash from the union and the union wants more cash from the home unions. The trouble is that the RFU is, to its very bootstraps, amateur, you had only to be at the two special general meetings in Birmingham to know this for certain.

Try translating that to the administration of a professional sport - and the Rugby Football Union is doing precisely that and you are instantly in difficulty. However you look at it, rugby union's amateurs are making an unholy mess of

Lessons that have not been learnt as history repeats itself

If long-term consistency is the sporting virtue to be prized above all others, then the Rugby Football Union has it in trumps.

If Will Carling's old farts are showing an inability now to deal with the reality of change, then they have a 101-year-old precedent for their recalcitrance. The threatened schism between the RFU and its leading clubs carries uncanny echoes of the events that led to the birth of rugby league in 1895. The myth that rugby league

came into being purely because of the single issue of broken-time payments to compensate working-class players has been largely debunked by recent research. The broader picture of the

split of 1895 is one of a desire among the more successful clubs, who were concentrated in the north of England, for more autonomy. Those clubs were already paying their players through back-door arrangements and recognised that they needed regular competition against each other to generate the income that was required.

The RFU's attitude to broken-time payments was merely a symptom of its determination to maintain its control

and not allow the initiative for deciding the future shape of the game to be seized by northerners, who were not imbued

with the amateur ethos. All the things that the rebel clubs wanted before the 1895 split, notably leagues and the abandonment of restrictive amateurism, have come to pass in rugby union over the past century. But the refusal to allow the new breed of rebel clubs to exercise autonomy within the RFU can be seen as a rear-

guard battle in the same war. The RFU has accepted professionalism, but still wants to Dave Hadfield believes that the Rugby Football Union's present intransigence is bred of the same kind of autocracy which split the game more than a century ago

fessional clubs will have to become, while the clubs know that it is hopelessly ill-equipped to do so.

In the lead-up to the 1895 schism, there was deep concern over the wealthier, less scrupulous clubs poaching all the best talent, just as there has been in

retain its power over the very different organisations that pro-RFU as incompetent and run by establishment backwoodsmen.

There was even a figure who could be regarded as the Cliff Brittle of his day, the Rev Frank Marshall, who took on the role of witchfinder-general, rooting out incipient professionalism. It was the intransigence of his fac-

tion that led to 22 clubs setting up their own Northern Union. Some of the consequences of that move should give the RFU pause for thought now.

Rugby union in the north of England never recovered from the shock to its system, and association football, which had resolved the tensions between amateurism and professionalism, stepped into the vacuum.

The breakaway league became a largely self-contained, exclusive body, because smaller clubs could not compete financially with the bigger outfits which had taken the plunge.

Over the next decade, the rules under which the Northern Union played adopted most of the distinguishing features of rugby league, starting with reducing teams to 13, abolishing line-outs and allowing open professionalism.

The reason for the changes in the way the game was played was simple. The new game was dependent on attracting crowds in order to pay its way, and it had to be more attractive to watch if it was to survive.

What rules, you have to wonder, will professional rugby union clubs eventually play

the money they need, they will find, as another group of men who bridled under the RFU's autocracy 101 years ago found. that it will have to be worth

under? If they are to generate

What do you think of the ATUs handing of the move to professionalism? We will print a selection of your views. Write to Sports Letters, Sports Department, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Carany Wharf, London E14 5DL Or fax your letter to 0171 293 2894.

Nickle cleared for final

Rugby League DAVE HADFIELD

Sonny Nickle, the Bradford Bulls forward, has been cleared to face his old club, St Helens. in the Challenge Cup final in 10 days' time.
Nickle has been ruled to have

no case to answer after being placed on report following an incident in the Super League match between the two clubs on Sunday. That leaves Brian Smith, the Bulls' coach, able to field his first-choice second row combination at Wembley, with Jeremy Donougher expected to recover from a neck injury in

row. Vila Matautia, faces the disciplinary committee tomorrow as a result of his sending-off for the use of an elbow against Bradford, Dean Busby, the firstchoice loose forward, was ruled out yesterday because he has not recovered from a knee injury

The better news from Knowsley Road is that Simon Booth, the second row, could be fit to resume in time for the final. St Helens will also have Mike Gregory, the former Great

Britain loose forward and cap-

quickly enough.

tain, on hand on the big day. Gregory was appointed assistant coach to Shaun McRae last month, but Salford were refusing to release him from his playing contract. Now they have relented in time for Gregory to

in the Wembley preparations. "It's a great time to arrive at the club and I have to thank John Wilkinson, the chairman at Salford, for releasing me from

my contract," Gregory said.
Mike Ford, the former Great Britain scrum-half, will make his debut for Wakefield in the home match against Salford on Sunday after joining the club from Warrington. The 30year-old former Wigan and Castleford player has agreed a two-year deal with the option of

Wakefield have paid a small transfer fee for Ford, who joined Warrington last September after a spell with the South Queensland Crushers in

a further 12 months.

Archer joins Newcastle | Ainslie collects bronze as Hall keeps spending

Rugby Union STEVE BALE

The spending spree by Sir John Hall on behalf of the rugby arm of Newcastle United Sporting Club continued yesterday when three players, headed by the 21year-old England lock Garath Archer, were added to Rob Andrew's squad.

Archer's return to Newcastle from Bristol had been well trailed, and both clubs appear to be satisfied - Newcastle to have an outstanding young forward and Bristol to be rid of a profoundly unsettling influence

on the rest of their players.

He will be joined by the England A centre Andrew

Blyth, one of an impending exodus of players from West Hartlepool, and Ross Nesdale, a hooker who was on the Auckland bench when the Lions played there in 1993. Although Nesdale is a non-European national, his new club say he will be eligible to play from the start

of next season.

The First Division to which Newcastle aspire will move nearer its denouement tonight when Leicester, two points behind Bath with a game in hand, play Sale at Welford Road. If Sale sensed a better chance of an upset in the absence of John Liley and Rory Underwood the feeling evaporated when their own inspiration, Paul Turner, withdrew with a rib injury.

Sailing STUART ALEXANDER

A bronze medal at the Laser World Championships in Simonstown, South Africa, was almost a disappointment for Ben Ainslie, Britain's representative at the Olympics. The 19-year old was unable

to recover in the final two races vesterday from a disqualification on Monday for putting on a top which meant his weight was seven ounces over the limit.

The gold medal went to Robert Scheidt, of Brazil, and the silver to Karl Suneson, of Sweden, Another Briton, Ian Percy, was pleased to finish fifth, behind Stefan Warkala, of In Murcia, Spain, all the British contenders for the Olympics are doing well enough to go through in the European qualifiers for the women's doublehanded 470, the women's singlehanded Europe, and the men's singlehanded Finn.

Robertson was ninth of 26 with 19 to qualify, and Richard Sten-house was 14th of 24 with 18 to

The Round the Isle of Wight Race, which is expected to attract a record entry of more than 1,500 yachts for its dia-mond jubilee on 29 June, is to be sponsored for the next three years by the Japanese-owned opthalmics company Hoya Lens

UK, who will also back Eddie Warden Owen's 1996 campaign on the Ultra 30 circuit.

Britain's Sue Crafer is one of five women named as the initial core crew of Sweden's allwomen EF Education entry in the 1997 Whitbread Race. The After six races Bethan Raggatt and Sue Carr were 10th of 17 with 16 to qualify, Shirley training yacht, the former Galicia Pescanova, in Falmouth at the end of this month. Two new yachts are scheduled to be built.

Crafer joins Whitbread veterans Mikaela von Koskull of Finland, Leah Newbold of New Zealand, and Marleen Cleyndert of the Netherlands, all of whom crewed Heineken in the last Whitbread. A Swedish icebreaker was yesterday accompanying the yacht out of

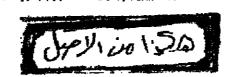
it's easy to see what our lowest rate ever could do for you. HAMILTON We have the money to hand.

Typical Examples:

UNSE	CU	R E D	P P	E R S	O N	A L	L O	A N S
LENDER	A LOAN	OF £4,00	90	What you	A LOAI	V OF £7,00	00	What you
	APR‡	48 monthly repayments	Total amount payable	save with Hamilton Direct Bank	APR‡	48 monthly repayments	Total amount payable	save with Hamilton Direct Bank
Hamilton Direct Hant:	16.9%	£112.79	£5,413.92	5	13.8%	£188.07	£9,027.36	Ba
	<u>19.9%</u>	£118.10	£5,668.80		<u>19.9%</u>	£206.68	£9,920.64	2001.28
That Beat pleas	18.9%	£116.33	£5.583.84	£169.92	<u>15.9%</u>	£194.31	£9,326.88	
The Borel Best of Scotlandysic 18	18.7%	£116.00	£5,568.00	2132.08	<u>17.5%</u>	£199.32	£9,567.36	£540.00
‡Rates are correct as at 15/04/9	96. The rates o	mored are for n	ew customers. I	Existing customen	s may be eligible	for a different :	rate.	

You can take out an unsecured Personal Loan for any reasont with Hamilton Direct Bank, a division of HFC Bank plc and take advantage of our attractive fixed rates:

13.8% APR on unsecured Personal Loans from £5,000 - £10,000 16.9% APR on unsecured Personal Loans from £500 - £4,999



confirms

return to

Queen's

Pete Sampras, newly restored as the world No 1, confirmed yes-

terday that he would defend the

Stella Artois title at Queen's

Club, London, from 10 to 16

June, in preparation for his at-

tempt to win a fourth consecu-

tive Wimbledon championship.

former winners of the \$700,000

(£470,000) Queen's tourna-

ment: Boris Becker, Stefan Ed-

berg, Michael Stich, Wayne

Edberg, a frequent visitor to

the practice courts at Queen's,

which is within walking dis-tance of his Kensington home,

will be making a farewell ap-

pearance at the tournament as

part of his retirement season.

ing his debut. The Austrian, who

was supplanted as No 1 by

Sampras on Monday, rose to the

top of the game without winning

an ATP Tour match on grass as

a senior player, his solitary vic-tory on the surface having been

in the Davis Cup in February.

Goran Ivanisevic, twice a

Wimbledon finalist, will also

feature in the Stella draw, along

with two British direct entries,

Greg Rusedski and Tim Hen-

man. A wild card has been

provided for Jeremy Bates to

enable him to make a farewell

international women's champ-ionship, at Eastbourne from 18

to 22 June, has attracted five of

the world's top 11 players, including Conchita Martinez, the 1994 Wimbledon champion,

and Chanda Rubin, the runner-

up at Devonshire Park last year.

ceded by a legends tournament, featuring among others Ken Rosewall, Tony Roche and

Fred Stolle, to be played on

Monica Seles, the Australian

Open champion who has been

out of the game for three

months because of a shoulder injury, has entered a second-tier WTA Tour event in Madrid the

week before the French Open,

Byron Black, the losing finalist in the Indian Open on

which starts on 27 May

Monday 17 June.

This year's event is to be pre-

The Direct Line Insurance

appearance at the event.

Thomas Muster will be mak-

Ferreira and Todd Martin.

Sampras is to be joined by five

Tennis JOHN ROBERTS

Phil Shaw previews tonight's two games which affect the race for the Premiership

chester United away strip, the destination of the Premiership trophy is a grey area again. The top two are at home to lowly opposition tonight, yet now face the added pressure of needing to pile on the goals.

On the eve of United's game against Leeds - in which Gary Pallister is set to make a longawaited comeback - Alex Fer-guson played do the idea that they might be forced to play off for the championship with Newcastle, who face Southampton. "It won't come to that," he said, "but we do know that goals are very important."

Despite Ferguson's confidence, FA Premier League officials will discuss the matter with the clubs tomorrow. The rules provide for a play-off if two clubs finish level on points, goal difference and goals scored. Newcastle are two goals behind the leaders but, as things stand today, they would be level on all three counts if they won their game in hand 2-0.

Agreeing a date for such a match could be awkward. United meet Liverpool in the FA Cup final on 11 May, with the following Thursday set aside for a replay. Two days later, England play Hungary at Wembley, and within 48 hours Terry Venables takes his squad on a Far Eastern tour to prepare for the European Championship

By tomorrow, of course, the situation may have altered radically. United look to have the less arduous task. Southampton, striving for points to avoid relegation, tackle Newcastle buoved by the 3-1 rout of United. Leeds, already past the 40point safety mark, have been playing as if mentally they are

100

T.

.

1, 20

Fg. (2) 93) 1965

Salah Sa

eet sorrow

already on the beach. Ferguson put it succinctly: we're confident about in terms of trying their best. It's either that or go down." Perhaps the personnel, both main chalmindful that one flash of inspiration from Matthew Le Tissier for this one as Eric Captona's could break Newcastle - and

Like the newly binned Man- that he thrives on appreciation - he added: "He was superb against us. He's got tremendous

talent and scoring ability."

On paper, United should have little trouble beating Leeds, whose defensive problems have deepened with each defeat. But it might be a dif-ferent story if Howard Wilkinson sets out to stop the home side playing. The Leeds manager paved the way for a night ssed defence by confirming that Tomas Brolin, who reportedly intends to exercise his "escape" clause in the summer. would not be considered.

"I spoke to Tomas about his future and he told me he hadn't made his mind up vet." Wilkinson said. "I don't think we can go to Old Trafford unless we have everyone 100 per cent committed. There will be 50,000 people there and Manchester United will have the bit between their teeth." Tony Yeboah, who injured a

knee playing for Ghana a few days after the Coca-Cola Cup final, faces a fitness test. Meanwhile. Pallister will inform his manager as to whether his back has suffered any reaction to five days' intensive training. Ferguson, asked whether Leeds' preponderance of six-footers made him keener to have the England defender back, said: "No. It's because he's the best centre-half in the country." Before the weekend's results

threw the title race open again, Kevin Keegan welcomed the game's newest manager, John Aldridge, to "the Grey Hair Club". Anything but three points tonight and Keegan might turn as white as Manchester United's next away kit.

Faustino Asprilla (ankle) and Les Ferdinand (virus) should play as Newcastle seek to avenge their own defeat at The "Southampton are the one club Dell, but John Beresford (excessive lip to manager) may give way to Robbie Elliott. Whatever

Scotland wait for Ferguson

The question of whether Duncan Ferguson will be fit for the European Championship finals has nagged away almost as long as the injury which has restricted him to five caps. Today, Scotland expect their answer, writes Phil Shaw. Ferguson will undergo spe-

cialist examination on his persistent groin problem. Craig Brown, who named Everton's high-rise striker yesterday in the Scotland squad to play Denmark a week tonight, said the diagnosis would be "critical" for his prospects.

"We want to know if he needs an operation or just a rest cure," the Scotland manager said. "If it's major surgery that would rule him out of the finals. If it's scar tissue, he might just have a chance."

A sizeable number of the 41 players on senior and B international duty against the European champions will be forwards, reflecting the fact that injuries have prevented Brown establishing a partnership. Scott Booth, first-choice during qual-Booth, first-choice during qualifying, is to continue his rehabilitation in Tuesday's B match. SCOTLAND SQUAD (v Denmark, Copenhagen, 24 April: Boyd (Celtic), Burley (Creised), Calderwood (Totterham), Collins (Cestic), Fergusson (Evertor), Galbacher (Backburn), Bossenilli (Notter Forest), Gorans (Ranges), Gunn (Nowton), Hendry (Backburn), Jackson (Fiberman), Leighton (Fiberman), McAlleter (Lects), McColl (Pangers) McColat (Rangers), McKimanle (Abertoen), T McKimby (Celtic), Ne McKimshe (Abertoen), T McKimby (Celtic), Speacer (Creised), Scottland B SQUAD to Denmark, Nykobing Fedester, 25 April: Booth (Abertoen), Gameron (Henta), Durin (Rangers), Glass (Abertoen), Hendrich (Motherwell), Jess (Coverny), Lambert (Notherwell), McKimbon, McKimbon, McKimbon (Motherwell), Mannar (Abertoen), Whythe (McKimbon (Motherwell), Shamane (Abertoen), Walther (Portick), Watt (Abertoen), Whythe (McKimbon (Motherwell), Shamane (Abertoen), Walther (Portick), Watt (Abertoen), Whythe (McKimbon (Motherwell), Mart (McKimbon (Motherwell



Hands-on experience: The Finnish striker Jari Litmanen hears words of wisdom from the Ajax coach, Louis van Gaal

Ajax hope to turn the tables

Republic call for Moore and Fleming

The uncapped Middlesbrough midfielder Alan Moore and the full-back Curtis Fleming have been drafted into the Republic of Ireland squad for next week's friendly match against the Czech Republic in Prague.

They replace Norwich's Keith O'Neill, who has a ligament injury, and the Chelsea full-back Terry Phelan, who has still not recovered from a thigh muscle injury picked up in the FA Cup semi-final against Manchester United. John Aldridge, the new · Tranmere player-manager, has also withdrawn from the Republic's squad.

"I wasn't going to start John in this match because I want to try a few new options," Mick McCarthy, the Republic's manager, said. "I understand John's position - he has a few big games left this season and Tranmere

are still in the danger zone."
Northern Ireland's manager, Bryan Hamilton, has called up the Walsali goalkeeper Trevor Wood for the friendly match with Sweden in Belfast next week after Nottingham Forest's Alan Fettis pulled out with a thumb injury.

Italy's coach, Arrigo Sacchi. has signed a new contract to take the national team to the 1998 World Cup finals in France, assuming they perform well under his guidance at this summer's European Championship, Sacchi, previously coach of Milan, took over as national coach in 1990 and led Italy to the final of the 1994 World Cup.

nal for the first time in since Louis van Gaal, the Aiax coach. is hoping the renowned passion of Greek supporters will work by Aiax at Wembley. against Panathinaikos in

nal second leg in Athens. The injury-bit holders, who will be without striker Patrick Kluivert, have an uphill task after losing the first leg 1-0, and van Gaal thinks his team have only "a 30 per cent chance of getting through". But he added: "Greek fans consider Panathinaikos players as heroes after their win in Amsterdam [in the first leg]. They want them to reach the final at any cost and this will make them very nervous. We must take ad-

today's European Cup semi-fi-

vantage of any mistakes." Some 80,000 fans are expected at Athens' Olympic stadium as Panathinaikos seek a place in the European Cup fi-

The flamboyant goalkeeper

Rene Higuita has withdrawn

himself from selection for

Colombia following a series of

right," Higuita said. "I'm still not

up to the necessary level to as-

sume the responsibility of play-ing on the national side."

football federation, Alvaro

Fina. said he had accepted Hi-

guita's decision with regret but

without any doubt that the 29-

year-old was acting in what he

believed to be the best interest

"He told us very honestly that

The head of the Colombian

'I'm not well, I don't feel

disappointing displays.

hopes in front of goal will again 1971, when they were beaten 2-0 Panathinaikos, back on top of

the Greek league after a 1-0 Athens derby win over AEK, are confident but do not underestimate their task in earning a tilt at either Nantes or Juventus. Their Argentinian coach, Juan Ramon Rocha, said: "I want all Greeks to help us. It will not be easy to reach the final because Ajax will attack like hungry wolves from the first minute.

advantage but anything can happen. I said before the first leg that Ajax is the best team in the world and we respect them. winners' Cup' and Lyon re-But the respect ends when the moving Lazio from the Uefa match starts."

Much of Panathinaikos'

didn't feel as if he were in

Fina said. "We have to believe

in Higuita's sincerity and we have to keep moving forward."

his eccentric playing style, in-

cluding his amazing "scorpion-kick" save against England at

Wembley earlier this season.

Fabio Capello, the Milan

coach who is close to his his

fourth Italian league title in five

years, may leave the club at the

According to published re-ports, Capello is close to join-

ing Real Madrid. Italy's largest

end of the season

Higuita became known for

shape to be on the selection."

Higuita drops himself for Colombia

he was playing at a low level and sports daily Gazzetta dello Sport

depend on the mercurial Polish international striker Krzysztof Warzycha, who scored in Amsterdam, his sixth goal in the European campaign.

Nantes will be seeking inspiration from Bordeaux as they attempt to overcome a two-goal deficit against Juventus. Few gave Bordeaux much hope of beating Milan in the Uefa Cup quarter-finals after losing the first leg 2-0, but they produced a stunning 3-0 victory. French teams have thrown

against Italian sides this season, with Paris St-Germain beating Parma in the European Cup-

Cup. Nantes, who have never

said that a three-year contract,

giving Capello four billion lire

(£1.7m) a year, would be signed

Gazzetta quoted Real Madrid's president Lorenzo

Sanz as saying "Capello will be

the next coach of Real Madrid."

Capello said recently he will de-

On Saturday Milan can clinch

cide his future on Monday.

the title by winning at Torino as long as Juventus, who trail Mi-

lan by nine points, fail to beat

will decide whether Silvio

Berlusconi, the television

Elections in Italy on Sunday

Internazionale in Milan.

early next week.

reached a European final, know they have a tall order against Juventus, even if the Italians did lose 3-0 at home to Sampdoria on Saturday.

Juventus, European champions in 1985 and losing finalists in 1973 and 1983, have their French midfielder Didier Deschamps back from suspension to play at Nantes' Beaujoire stadium, where he started his career in Nantes.

Marcello Lippi, the Juventus coach, sounded only mildly confident of the outcome. "I would "The first leg win gives us an away their traditional complex rather be in our position than that of Ajax. But the tie is not over, especially as Nantes will have two important players back in N'Doram and Makelele." In fact, the Chad midfielder

Japhet N'Doram faces a fitness

mogul and Milan president has

succeeded in his attempt to re-

gain the premier office as

leader of a centre-right coali-

A victory for Berlusconi

would result in a renewal of the

popular high-spending policy of

the Milan club. This would also

include a new contract for

Capello, who took over at Milan from Arrigo Sacchi in 1991, when the latter became

national team coach, has been

in conflict with the club recently

after he was offered a one-year

extension of his contract pro-

vided he won the title first.

Capello.

Sunday, lost 6-3, 6-0 to Richev Reneberg in the first round of the Japan Open yesterday. Black, the No 9 seed, said he still

was suffering from jet lag. Rain prevented any play on the outside courts, and only six matches were played under the

retractable roof of the Ariake Colosseum. TODAY'S

NUMBER

9,000

The pounds sterling that will help easy the disappointment of first-round losers at the Embassy World Snooker Championship at Sheffield. The winner will take home £200,000, while a maximum break will pot £147,000.

Johnson is banned for three games

Basketball

Earvin "Magic" Johnson was suspended for three games and fined £6,600 by the National Basketball Association yesterday for bumping an official during the Los Angeles Lakers' game with the Phoenix Suns on

Johnson said after the 118-114 home victory over the Suns that the contact with the referee, Scott Foster, was accidental. But yesterday he accepted his punishment.

"I accept the league's fine and suspension and I want all the fans, the media and everyone associated with the Lakers to know that my actions were unprofessional and wrong," a contrite Johnson said.

"I apologise to Scott Foster, to all the NBA referees and to the league, and I hope they know, as I do, that the incident was accidental and that I respect their professionalism in what is a very difficult job."

Johnson who recently criticised his team-mates for irresponsible behaviour, missed last night's game at Dallas and will sit out the games at San Antomo on Thursday and at home against Minnesota on Saturday. He will be eligible to play again in the final game of the regular season, at Portland on Sunday.

Brackmaint on
ERROPEAN CHAMPRONISHIP (Herraing, Demmark) Herraing, first round: M Watt (Repof in) bit P Bosen (Er. Rep.) 15-8 15-1: L Lindolof
(Fin) bit P Bush (Eng) 15-4 15-6; 1 year Soudend
(Weth) bit P Vermesse (Bed) 15-9 15-2; A
Ammopor (Rus) bit E Thobbys (Fin) 15-6 15-12: M
Sperre (North St B Matthy of L Enning (Swit) 15-7
15-4; D Hall (Eng) bit P Jerostian (Fin) 15-12: 158: D Zebe (Pol) bit B Floothian (Soud) 9-15 1611-15-10; D Poster (Gen) bit M Poppor (But) 15-7
18-13: D Enfession (Swel) bit N Velson (Bus) 1318-15-6 15-0: M Bujan (Cen) bit P Kreutkoch (Aut)
15-5 15-7. Women's engliss, first round: B
Beerholder (Nistr) bit M Koutelskoe (Cz Rep) 112 11-2; K Morgan (Wel) bit E Nebert (Ge) 1111-1: J Baumbyer (Swel) bit G Smesek (But) 11-4
11-0.

NBA: Miarri 110 New Jersey 90; New York 125 Toronto 79; Septile 112 Houston 106; Indiana 90 Charlotte 87; Sacramento 90 Denver 88; Port-land 121 San Antonio 97.

CENTRAL DIVISION

WESTERN CONFE 22 .722 -27 .658 5 33 .562 11 45 .430 23 53 .329 31 54 .306 324 65 .167 434

PACIFIC DIVISION

ENGLISH MEN'S HIDOOR CHANNYONSHIPS.
(Melton Howbury) Triples quarter-finals: to-such (A Wyst) bit Bodman (S Lane) 21-20 (of-ter earn end): Whitelinghta (S Sacce) bit Boston (B Hobert) 19-12: Starley (F Lector) bit

Teignbridge () Whickham) 18-17; Erdington Court (S Thomas) bt Huddersfield (A Aldricon)

British middleweight champion, Neville Brown, is to get a revenge European to-tle attempt at Italy's Agostino Cardamone this summer. Brown, 30, has been nom-inated by the European Bosing Union to Inductory the purposes found a ninth right Cardamone for the title recently va-cated by fellow Midlander Riche Wood-hall who is concentrating on his World Boxing Council title attempt against Washington's Keith Holmes in June.

Boxing

Criciost

Cricio Cup regulations. The sides also stage a 40-over game on Sunday when York-shire plan to play their England under-19 seam bowler Matthew Hoggard. Richard Johnson, who missed last win-ter's Test tour of South Africa because of back problems, has been forced to ture following a shoulder injury. The Middiesex paceman had been selected for The Rest to play against England A in a four-day match at Chelmsford, starting on Saturday.

ing on Saturday.

WEST INDIES SQUAD (First Test v New Zealand, Bridgetown, Barbadou, Priday): C
A Walsh (capt), S L Campbell, R G Samuels,
B C Lora, P V Simmons, S Cherclespoul, R I
Holder, J C Adasse, C O Browne, I Bashop, G E
Ambrose, R Dhanes, P I, Thompson. South Africa crushed Pakistan by eight wickets in yesterday's Sharjah Cup match to maintain their unbeaten record in the tournament and qualify for the final. The South Africans shot our Pakistan for a means 199 Pakistan for a meage 188 in just 45 overs and then reached their target with 16.5 overs to spare to claim their third

SHARJAH CUP TOURNAMENT (Sharjah, unel: Pakistan 188; South Almos 189 for 2 (Alkudson 94no), South Africa bt Peidetan by 8 wickets. P W L Pts Runs ics 3 3 0 6 +2.163 1 2 2 -0.604 1 3 2 -1.15

Equestrianism

Welton Romance, who was Lucy Thompvisiting mount at last year's European Open Championships, has been withdrawn from next month's Badminton Mitsubshi Three-Day Event because of a minor injury. The injury should not prevent Thompson from riding for the Insh Otympic feam in Affanta.

England Under 18's go to Yeovil on Tues-day to play Scotland in the second leg of the European Youth Tournament intermediary round. England won the first leg 3-0. The winner of this tie will qualify with six other intermediary group win-ners for the final stages to be hosted by France from 21 to 31 July, England, whose squad includes five graduates of

whose squad includes five graduates of the FA National School, best Latvia 2-0 and Sweden 6-2 in earlier rounds. ENGLAND UNDER-18 SQUAD (European Youth Toernessent v Scotlend, Yeovil, Toerdey 28 Agrilly Wright (poster), Locale, Preston, Cards (Man Uto), Ferdinand (West Ham), Wellwork (Man Uto), Laciaste (Local), Creve (Arsens), Online (Southampton), Shephard (Leois), Thompson (Leopool, Blust (Leois), Clowesse (Tourenheen), Barrett (Newcastle), Haskey (Laicester), Branch (Everton), Ducros (Coventry).

Hoskey (Inicester), Branch (Everton), Ducros (Covertoy).

SCOTLAND: Anthony (Colic), Archer (Notingham Forest), Brahmer (Man (Md), Craig (Aberder), Ferguson (Rangas), Gray (Leets), Kelly (Celic), BicChaskey (St. Johnston), BicCondichia (Celic), McCalloch (Mothervel), McCland (Oddham), BicStane (Frangary), Naysanith (Hearts), Pollock (St. Miren), Schenjour (St. Miren), Thomson (Crystel Palace).

MONDAL'S LATE RESULTS: FA Carling Premierships Assensi O Tetherham (D. Sim Briffin Testimonial: Motherwell 1 Wolves 2 Leis Laugus Premier Division: Bogror Regis 3 Barton Rovers O. Second Division: Engrer Regis 3 Barton Rovers O. Second Division: Engrer Regis 3 Barton Rovers O. Second Division: Friely 1: Hyde 1 Witton O. First Division: Astron Util 1 Radcleffe Borbugh 1; Great Hamosof 1 Workington C Farsley Celic 2 Herrogas from 2, Beazer Hounes Laugus Premier Division: Worcester O Dorchester 1, Great Hills Laugus Premier Society I Briget Sesent County Laugus Premier Division: Shorenam 1 Burges; Md O. North West County Laugus First Division: Shorenam Utils 2 Blackburn O Newcastle 1. Second Division: Aston Vita 3 Middlesbrusgi 3: Barnsky 5 Bradfor Cut 1: Lebester 1 Hudden-First O-Lings 2. Blackburn O Newcastle 1. Second Division: Aston Vita 3 Middlesbrusgi 3: Barnsky 5 Bradfor Cut 1: Lebester 1 Hudden-First O-Lings 2. Blackburn O Newcastle 1. Second Division: Aston Vita 3 Middlesbrusgi 3: Barnsky 5 Bradfor Cut 1: Lebester 1 Hudden-First O-Lings 4. 2. Talend 2; Bisckburn O Newcastie 1, Second Division: Asian Villa 3 Middlestrough 3; Barnsley 5 Brad-ford City 1; Leboster 1, Phicosostied 2. Third Division: Carloll 1, Chesterficel 0; Rochole 1 Chester 2, Asten Institutiona Combination Print Division: Bristol City 1 Laton 0; Bristol Roces 2 Tottentam 1; Possech 1 Chedron 1; Matheut 1 Brighton 1; Portsmuch 1 Wattled 0; West Ham 1 Queen's Park Rangers 3, Second Division; Chetentam 1 Sain City 0, FA Youth City Semi-ficial second leg: Crystal Palace 3 Licerpool 3

SPORTING DIGEST (after extra time; Liverpool win 7-5 on aggregate). Under-18 International; Wales O North-em Instant 2 (at the Resecutive Ground)

Nick Faldo's sturning Masters victory lifted him to fifth place in the Sony world rankings, just two weeks after slipping out of the top 10 for the first time in whete weeks

Out of the top 10 for the first time in eight years.
LEADings were 2 c Morrisonens (Soc) 10.27; 3 M Price (In 13.80ps; mg; 2 c Morrisonens (Soc) 10.27; 3 M Price (In 19.35; 4 E Es (SA) 9.35; 5 M Feido (Eng) 9.00; 6 C Pawn (US) 8.86; 7 B Langer (Ger) 8.53; 8 F Couples (US) 8.45; 8 M Cazet Linger) 7.13; 10 5 Elengon Musi 6.94; 11 f Lehmon (US) 6.32; 12 Michielon (US) 8.02; 13 V Singly (Fill 5.88; 13 F Michielon (US) 8.02; 13 V Singly (Fill 5.88; 14 S Hoch (US) 5.49; 15 S Torrance (Soc) 5.05; 16 L Jansen (US) 4.98; 19 D Love (US) 4.81; 20 M O'Mears (US) 4.80.

Pauline Robertson, the 27-year-old midfielder who capitalis Scotland has been elected capitalin of the Atlanta Olympics British team who will play seyen matches against the United States and Spain, the Olympic champions, at their training camp in Atlanta from 14 April to 3 May. African Nations Cup Tournament (Preto-fail: South Airice 6 Nambe C; Kenje 2 Egypt 2.

Rugby Union

SPANSH OPEN (Barcalona) Men's singles second reund? Pfearhus River) at A Merta (So 2-6 6-2 6-1; M Lerison (Sne) at F Santoro (F 7-6 6-1; F Dewalf (Bel) at D Risk (2-Rep) 6-6-2; A Berssenega (Sp) at P Baur (Ger) 6-1 6 1; A Corresja (Sp) at P Saur (Ger) 6-1 6 H J Dewats (Nesh) to A Saudern (1) 7-5 6-3. Nosa (GZ Reu) b; H Gury (Ang) 6-4 6-3. Third Novels (Cz Rep) bt. H Gurrry (Arg) 6-4 6-3. This round: J Burillo (Sp) bt. Y Kafelonikov (Rus) 3-6 1 7-5; C Moya (Sp) bt. M Rosset (Swid 6-1 6-4 17-5 C More (Spin on Masset (Switt of Soil - Cal-MPAN OPPN (Tolyne) Mass's singles, first round: T Suzula (Lepen) br N Kulti (Swe) 6-3 6-1: 3 Mat-suciae (Lepen) br C Carrai 10: 6-1: 7-6; R Reneberg (ISS) br B Black (Zint) 6-3 6-0; D Pri-nosi (Geri br S Stolle (Aus) 6-1: 6-4; Women's singles, first round: A Supperme (Jepen) br T Min (HIG) 6-1: K Dene (Jepan) br R Heise (Jepan) 6-3 6-1.

6-3 6-1.

BERMUNA OPEN (Paget, Bermude) Mon's eleges, first round: M Wachington IUSI bit Liersen (USI 8-3 6-4; J Aopi (Swe) to A Reichel (US) 2-8 7-5 8-4; to Der (Gen 18:4) M. Roya (USI 6-4 7-6; N Lapertin fecul bit K Novacek (C2 Rep) 7-5 3-6 6-4; M Rippon (UUI bit G Ebis (Wg) 6-2 3-6 6-2; A Be (Aust bit J Stothenberg (Rusi 6-3 6-2 8 Shepton (US) to G Gross (Gen 6-1 6-2; J Frana (Veg) to M Charpenton (Arg) 6-3 8-2. Doubles, first resent M Perniton and M Weinder (Swe) or R Bergh (Swe) and S Carnon (US) 7-5 7-6.

representative that the process and the second of the seco

Football

7.30 unless stated EUROPEAN CUP SEMI-FINALS SECOND LEG tantes (0) v Juventus (2) Pasathinelikos (1) v Ajax (0) (6.30) FA CARLING PREMI FA CANUME PHONEIGENEE ASSAULANCE ENDSLEIGH LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION

SECOND DIVISION Swindou v Burniey (7.45)
ICS LEAGUE Premier Division: Harrow v Hendox Videssy v Castvelton. Plast Division: Alchgdon Town v Tooning & Mitcham (7.45). Third Division: Arcley v Tring (7.45); Northwood v Harefield.

Second Division

11 Blackoool v Swindo

14 Brighton v Carliste

20 Stockport v York...

21 Wrestnam v Hull

13 Bradford v Chesterfield .

15 Bristol City v Oxford Utd.

16 Crewe v Rotherham ..

17 Notts County y Burnley

18 Peterborough v Bristol Rovers

19 Shrewsbury v Brentford

TODAY'S FIXTURES IMBOND LEAGUE Pression Divisions Frickley v Gusseley. First Divisions Alimston v Nestherfield: Farsley Celtic v Alterton IL. REAGES HOMES LEAGUE Medition Divisions: Corby v Bedworth (7.45). Southern Divisions Circolard v Feetham (7.45). De Martinas Cap Real first legt Galdock v Nuneaton. GREAT MILLS LEAGUE Pression Divisions Frome v Tataton (7.45).

NORTHERN COUNTRES EAST Langue Premier Divisios: Astracia United v Belper Town; Dena-by United v Glasshoughton Welfare. NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE First Divi-HOUSE WAS COUNTIES TO THE WIND HOUSE HOUSE

FIRST-CLASS MAXCHES (first day of three): Cambridge University v Glamorgan (at Ferner's); Oxford University v Dutham (at The Parks). OTHER MATCH (Third day of four): Hampshire Secont XI v England Under-19 (at SOuthampton).

Rugby Union COURAGE CLUBS' CHAMPIONSHIP No League One: Leicester v Sale 17, 15).

CLUB MATCH: Preston Grasshoppers v Wight WILLIS CORRON SHIELD: Army v RAF (3.0) Baskethali

BUDWESER CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY-OFFS Quarter-finals (second leg of three): Sheffield Sharks (1) v Wortlang Bears (0) (7.30); London Leopards (1) v Menchester G-ants (0) (8.0).

PREMIER LEAGUE: Hull v Wolverhampton; Long Eaton v Cradley Heath & Stoke; Poole

Other sports 90WLS: Engish Men's Indoor Chempionshop

WEEKEND FIXTURES AND POOLS FORECAST	Endsleigh League First Division 1 Gransby v Sheff Und	Third Division 23 Cardifi v Plymou	ah	First 2 44 D:	Pivision Indee v Civietenk
			AND		

2 Lercester v Huddersfield 24 Darlington v Bury ... 3-Luton v Watford 25 Doncaster v Barnet 4 Milhail v Oldham 26 Farrar v Colchester ... 5 Norwich v West Brom 27 Futhern v Wigen ... 6 Port Vale v Transnere 28 Hartlepool v Lincoln . 7 Porismouth v Barnsley 29 Levton Opent v Preston 8 Reading v Charlton 30 Mansfield v Hereford 9 Southend v Ipswich... 31 Northampton v Gillingham 10 Wolverhämpton v Crystal Palece... Also playing (not on coupons); Derby v Birmingham.

34 Torquay v Chester Playing Sunday: Sunderland v Stoke City. **GM Vauxinali Conference** 35 Altrincham v Hednesford 36 Dag & Red v Runcom . 37 Famborough v Telford .

33 Scarborough v Cambridge Utd .

38 Slough v Morecambe .. Premier Division

42 Kemamock v Partick ..

Bell's Scottish League 39 Aberdeen v Hearta 40 Celtic v Fallock 41 Hitternian v Rarth ..

45 Dunfermane v Dumbarton . 46 Morton v St Johnstone ... 47 Hamilton v Dundee Utd. 48 St Mitten v Airtile. Second Division 49 Berwick v Straryaer. 50 Clyde v Avr... 51 East Fife v Fortar

52 Montrose v Stirting .. 53 Stenhousemus y Queen of South. Third Division 54 Alloa v Brechm 55 Arbroath y Ross County 56 Caledonsan T v Albion 57 East Stirling v Cowdenbeath ... 58 Queen's Park v Livingston

Four draws: Gnmsby v Sheffleld United, Southerd United v Ipawich Town, Exiter City v Colchester United, Morton v St Johnstone. Five aways: Charlton Athletic, Crystal Palace, Hednestord, Rangers, Dundee United. Ten bornes: Lacester City, Millwell, Port Vale, Bradford City, Crewe Alexandra, Wycombe Wan-deres, Danington, Celuc, Dunierritine Athletic, East Fite. non, e go gree-

f this

with-

iwo 2**13** cace

iful-Eu-DOSE

Home rivals unite in move to isolate England

STEVE BALE

England's apparently inexorable progress out of the Five Nations' Championship was sharply accelerated yesterday when the Five Nations' committee - of which the English are in increasingly uneasy membership changing the format of the championship. Without England. This is the combined Welsh. Scottish and Irish riposte to the

lateral decision to seek its own television deal when the current £27m Five Nations contract with the BBC runs out next home unions in combination. A March. The others turned down the RFU flat when it sought to change the present four-way even split to a 60 per cent share of the new contract because it had "more mouths to announced it would consider feed". Broadcasters are set to

pay at least £150m this time. If this continues, England will soon be seeking annual fix-tures with South Africa and

Spain. The ramifications could There is another meeting, also in of the committee will now be realso affect the British Isles Dublin, on 27 April when anouseled to consider the future touring team, the one other institution that is governed by the severance of relations with England would make next year's tour to South Africa either implausible or impossible.

The non-English home unions - France has always made its own arrangements with French TV reached their potentially momentous decision at last Sunday's meeting in Dublin but chose to other attempt at an unlikely settlement will be made.

The RFU's status as a subsidiary bost union for the 1999 World Cup was excluded from yesterday's statement. "This break by England was considered wholly unacceptable by the FNC, who insist that the conduct and sale of rights, including broadcasting rights, are to retained by the committee."

quested to consider the future format of the Five Nations' Championship and additionally the question of relationships at all international representative levels. The breakaway by England from the existing arrangements could have implications for British Lions tours. The other unions of the

now be obliged to reappraise the positions generally Yesterday the RFU, having on Monday refused to recognise

Five Nations' committee will

der any threat, remained disbelieving that it had come to this. The RFU secretary, Tony Hallett, launched a defence of the union's position based on the financial realities created by professionalism and the patronising supposition that the other unions would also be better off as a result of England's opt-out.

"In the new, increasingly commercial world created by the International Board, the RFU believes it has a responsibility to its constituent bodies

maximising its own TV revenue, he said. We believe that all unions will be able to benefit from our decision and that the Five Nations will remain in-

This piece of wishful thinking makes Hallett sound as if he had never heard of the Five Nations' indignation. In any case the RFU is divided on this, as it is on how to deal with its own recalcitrant senior clubs. The union's TV stance, adopted at last Friday's meeting of the full

its Five Nations position was un- and clubs in membership for committee; is understood to than Cliff Brittle, chairman of its executive.

The Welsh would probably be in a position to go it alone too but have, with undisguised piety, resolved to stick with the less-blessed Scots and Irish. Yesterday the Scottish Rugby Union, on the occasion of the 250th anniversary of the battle of Culloden, pleaded for a change of heart. Another English victory like that one would

Shearer injury gives Fowler Euro 96 hope

GLENN MOORE

Football Correspondent

The threat of injury is as much a part of football as the ball. It strikes without regard for ability or form, but, though it is the scourge of the game, it can bring benefits as well as losses.

These are rarely obvious at the time but as Terry Venables yesterday announced that Alan Shearer, his leading striker, was the latest England player to be struck down, there was a glimmer of hope. Shearer will not be available for England's Wembley friendly with Croatia on Wednesday, the squad for which Venables announced yesterday, but he may be a better player for that in Euro '96. If he plays.

Every time England go into a summer tournament, and fail, the complaint goes up that there is too much football. It is true but, since the chairman are incapable of looking beyond selfinterest, it falls to nature to intervene. Many injuries are caused by too much football, either directly, as in wear-and-tear injuries like cartilages, or indirectly, through having inadequate time to recover between games. The silver lining is that iniuries force rest that ultimately

benefits the player and his team. Shearer has been suffering from a groin injury for some weeks but, with Blackburn chasing a European place, has continued playing. He has finally admitted defeat and undergoes

an operation tomorrow. the end of the season but, by doing what I'm doing now, my spe-cialist is confident I will be fit

maybe the tour" in reference to England's trip to China and

"It's been getting worse for the last three matches," Venables said. "He wants to get 30 goals, which is why he's playing tonight [he has 29]. He will have the op on Thursday and should be back in three to four weeks."

That Shearer is playing tonight suggests the injury is not that serious. He should, therefore, be fit by June and he will also feel rested and refreshed.

That certainly applies to Jason Wilcox who was one of three players enjoying the plus side of injury yesterday. Wilcox, Stan Collymore and Sol Campbell have been given the chance, through others' misfortune, to revive fledging international careers which had themselves been interrupted by injury.

Wilcox is the latest contender to fill the void left by Darren Anderton, another injury victim. Anderton, who made a significant step in his return from injury when he came on for Tottenham on Monday, was injured in the autumn. Wilcox has been missing since last March but may be returning just in time. His importance to Black-

burn was best illustrated by their lack of balance without him. It is his first appearance in a full squad but he played well for the B team last season. Collymore played twice with-

out distinction during last summer's Umbro Cup then lost his place with both England and Liverpool after suffering an "It is disappointing to miss ankle injury in August. He has since struck up an excellent partnership with Robbie Fowler. cialist is confident I will be fit for Euro 96," he said. At which point Venables added "and Fowler is the more likely starter.

for the abandoned match in Dublin 14 months ago, before Hong Kong in late May. dropping out with injury. He took time to rediscover his form at Tottenham but is now playing well. A versatile player he has made a timely return to the centre-half berth. At pre-

> All hope to be fit for Euro 96 though Adams broke down in training yesterday - but first Campbell, or Ugo Ehiogu, have the chance to stake a claim. They should certainly get the opportunity to show their mettle. Croatia can choose from Davor Suker, Zvonimir Boban, Alen Boksic and Robert Prosinecki. Against such opposition Mark Wright's experience is likely to be used. "I expect them to be one of the favourites in the summer. They were the

sent, Tony Adams, Gary Pallis-

ter, Steve Howey and Gareth

Southgate are all injured.

There is every indication that Croatia, unlike some of England's recent visitors, will be taking the game seriously. Whether the attendance will reflect this is yet to be seen. Though admission prices are expected to be reviewed for the May fixture against Hungary they remain high for this game. Wembley is thus expected to be half-empty - or, as an FA spokesman might say, "half-full".

better side in two games against

Italy," Venables said.

ENGLAND SQUAD (v Crostie, Wombley, 24 April; Soumen (Arsena), Flowers (Backburn), Walk-er (Totambarn); G Neville (Man Litt), Jones (Li-Seamen (Arisonal), Flower's (Backburn), Wallier (Totarrham); G Newtile (Man Ibd), Jenes (Liespool), Carephel (Rotarrham); Wilgist (Liespool), Elalogu (Aston Villa), Pearce (Notim Forest), Phavelie (Man Utd), Lee (Newcaste), Ince (Internationale), Gamoolgae (Flangson), Platt (Arteral), Wilson (Blackburn), Skorne (Notim Forest), Wilson (CHR), Wallier (Liverpool), Shorlinghum (Totarrham), Fowler (Liverpool), Shorlinghum (Totarrham), Fowler (Liverpool), Shorlinghum (Newcaste), McMenosam (Liverpool), Startaley (Middelbrough), Fartileeud (Newcaste), Boardsley (Newcaste), McMenosam (Liverpool).

Premiership race, page 29

Football frenzy in the coun-

being fighting-fit (5,3,6) Living in the sea makes old

Ùpright individual in High Street? (6)

Unfit condition? Massages lessen rash best (14) 16 Adler and Jung, for exam-ple, reported as record-

Country with diamonds to

keepers (9)

17 Breaking law in opening stout? (8)

unload? (7) 20 Letter to Timothy in pile,

Naughty kids run from wriggly young things (5) High tar alarm? I'd reform!

Francis puts Anderton in frame

Darren Anderton was not se- ren will have a full game in the much but I felt OK and if things twice blaze over the bar when lected for England's 9 week with Croatia, but his Tottenham manager, Gerry Francis, has told Terry Venables: "He could still be your man for

Euro 96." Francis plunged substitute Anderton into the last 12 minutes of a typically frenetic North London derby against Arsenal at Highbury on Monday night - his first senior appearance since September following two serious groin operations - and

said: "Now I want him to play in all our last three Premier League games against Chelsea, Leeds and Newcastle. "It is a tremendous thing for him, and I think tremendous for England as well, that he's had this 12 or 13 minutes and come

through it. Darren has been through a very bad time, a very frustrating time, but he's back and that is great news. I spoke to Terry Venables about him after the Arsenal game and told

him my plans now for Darren. "Terry can't pick him for the

squad against Croatia but Dar-

reserves on inursoay and hopefully, another 90 minutes in a testimonial match at West Ham on Saturday.

"Then I'll be looking to play him in the three League games and Terry will have the opportunity to assess him for the European Championships.

'He doesn't have to name his squad until the end of May and so there is time still for Darren to get his match-fitness completely right. Obviously it is up to Terry after that, but he knows Darren as well as I do and he's a player who can do things that

other players cannot do." Francis decided to take his gamble on Anderton after Dean Austin and Andy Sinton were forced out of the squad for the Arsenal game by injuries. Anderton said: "Until yes-

terday morning I thought I was going to play in another reserve game, but then Gerry told me I was on the bench instead for the first team and it was great to be back - and to get on.

"Twelve minutes isn't very

I'm all right for the games against Chelsea, Leeds and Newcastle. I haven't even dared think about the England thing yet, but if it comes along then I obviously wouldn't say no."

Venables was among a 38,000-plus Highbury crowd to watch a passionate but goalless draw which left Arsenal still in pole position for a Uefa Cup place next season - two points ahead of sixth-placed Spurs, with three game apiece to play.

But the Gunners, who now face a trip to Blackburn a week on Saturday followed by home games with Liverpool and Bolton, could yet rue their failure to take first-half chances and go clear of the pack.

Blackburn, boosted by recent victories over Newcastle and Nottingham Forest, are still strongly in the hunt. They will be also be just a point behind Arsenal if they beat Wimbledon at Ewood Park tomorrow.

Bruce Rioch, the Arsenal manager, saw Paul Merson

Bergkamp and later Ray Parlour. Rioch, who then watched Nigel Winterburn miss from eight yards, said: "We had the momentum at that stage and should have converted at least one of our opportunities.

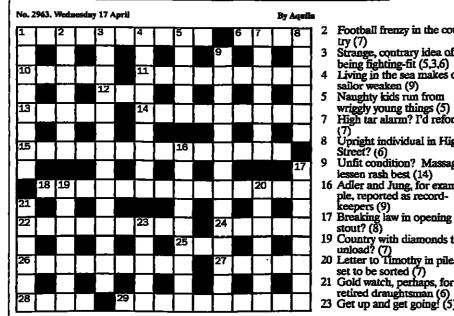
"But I don't consider it two points dropped. Spurs had a good chance themselves through Chris Armstrong in the second haif and it was remarkable really that there were no goals to show at the end."

commitment but variable must ity, honours were deservedly shared - allowing Francis to maintain his five-year unbeatenrecord, as manager of both OPR

and Spurs, against Arsenal. He admitted: "It was not quite the result we wanted and it will be very difficult for us to get into Europe. But two points is nothing even with three games to play and I believe it will still go right to the wire for a Uefa Cup place. We have three hard games left but so do Arsenal."

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD





- ACROSS
- 1 Strongholds in favour of City's nome fixture (4) 10 Butterfly making mark on
- paper (5)
 11 Organ many upset as member of guild? (9) 12 Short tenor at party? Full
- stop! (3)
 13 Rawboned type has some painful ankylosis (5) 14 They would be well-informed, knowing races can
- he fixed (9) 15 Pompous riparian had to fall to do a turn (4,2,4,4)
- retired draughtsman (6) 23 Get up and get going! (5) 18 Pluto alignment brings confusion (14) 22 Kind of roll, (A-E, etc)? (9) 24 Lighter tumble (5) 25 Popular name for a pub (3)

Watches traditionally show

- parallel things (9)
 27 Extremely wide, possibly
- 28 This bird dead, with nothing to follow? You can say that again! (4) 29 Enduring variety of pretti-
- 1 Craft gift? (8)



Win an exclusive 44-piece Carlton Cutlery Canteen. A contemporary styling in 18/10 stainless steel with a 50 year guarantee.

When you have the answers to the first three clues across AND the first three clues down phone 0891 311 017 and leave your answers with your name address and daytime telephone number by midnight tonight. Calls cost 39p per minute cheap rate, 49p per minute all other times.

Winners will be selected at random from all correct entries received. No cash alternative. Normal Newspaper Publishing rules apply. Editor's decision is final.

Wednesday want offers for cut-price Waddle

has refused a one-year deal at Sheffield Wednesday.

The 35-year-old former Newcastle, Tottenham and Marseille winger, will be available for £250,000. He said Wednesday's manager, David Pleat, had made it clear that he was "no longer regarded as a regular in the team."

"I want to be either playing regularly or doing a job as a player-coach or as a player-man-ager, so we agreed it would be best if I was made available." Waddle has been on the

bench for the last three Wednesday matches but his last start was at Aston Villa on 6 March. Waddle's former Tottenham

cohort, Glenn Hoddle, will also need a new contract at the end of next month. The Chelsea manager meets his club chairman, Ken Bates, and his boardroom colleagues tomorrow after Chelsea's Premiership trip to Sheffield Wednesday. "It's not about my contract

but about how the club is going

Chris Waddle, who will be a free agent at the end of the season, to be positive," Hoddle said. "I need to know exactly what's going on and it has taken a hell of a long time to get this meeting to fruition. Chelsea players have en-

couraged Hoddle to stay and finish the job at Stamford Bridge where Bates took the holding company, Chelsea Vil-lage, on to the Alternative Investment Market recently. Supporters keep saying to

me, 'Why haven't you signed your contract?'. But they don't understand the issues which have got to be sorted out from the top level. We need some direction.

"At the moment I'd be a fool to put pen to paper and commit other people's livelihoods as well I saw what happened at Tottenham when they first went public and it was frightening. I don't think it's all rosy and there are a lot of things that need to be talked about and sorted out."

Miliwall's manager, Jimmy Nicholl could return to firstteam football at the age of 39. Nicholl, who last played in the English league 10 years ago, is

Back issues available from Historic Newspay

contemplating playing Millwall's critical relegation game at home against Oldham on Saturday.

The former Northern Ireland full-back played for his former club, Raith Rovers, this season but his last English League game was for West Bronwich Albion in a 5-0 defeat at Tottenham on 8 March 1986.

The new Millwall manager who played a full reserve match against Brighton on Monday, has four defenders suspended and Damien Webber is also in-

The Football Association has commended police and stew-ards at Highbury for their swift action in quelling ugly scenes in Arsenal's Clock End stand after Monday's north London derby against Tottenham.

Thirteen arrests were made after rival fans hurled missiles. including bottles and broken seats, but the FA will not be taking any action.

Dumbarton, doomed to relegation to the Scottish Second Division, are up for sale. The move follows the resignation yesterday of three directors. OPublished by Newspaper Publishing PLC, I Canada Square, Canary Witarf, London E14 5DL, and printed at Mirror Colour Print, St



Morse Computers 0181 232 8686



warn

教育教育教育教育教育教育教育教育

- 444

-

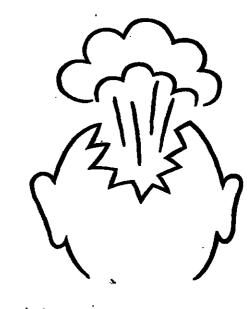
が強いない。

1.000 1.000

E 94

RI WESS 18 18 18

MORSE



Just announced.

Sun's new 'Enterprise' range of servers.

Desktop to mainframe-class scalability. With reliability, network performance, storage capability and sheer speed that will blow your mind.

Call for our 1-page executive summary.

